

Lord Killanin rules out change of site for Olympics

here is no question of the Olympic Games being moved from Moscow next summer, Lord Killanin, president of the International Olympic Committee, said in Dublin. In Washington, resident Carter said America would boycott the games if Soviet troops did not withdraw from Afghanistan within a month.

Moscow not in breach of games agreement

om John Hennessy
Lord Killanin, the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) took a firm stand over the weekend in the face of the Moscow Olympics asserting that "there is no question of their being moved to another venue".
In an interview in Dublin he told me: "This is a time for heads and quiet voices". I added, however, that it was the time for dispelling any ambiguity about the Moscow Games.
The games had been awarded to Moscow in 1974, he explained, and there was a binding agreement which would prevent the IOC from withdrawing the Olympics from Moscow unless the Russians were in breach of it. He said they were not. "This does not mean that I or the IOC are condoning the political action taken by the Soviet Union, but if we started making political judgments it would be the end of the games as any sport that behaved similarly," he said.
But were not the Russians using the games for political purposes? Lord Killanin said he had been unable to detect any difference between the activities of the Moscow Olympic Committee and those of the cities that had preceded it down the years, all of which had always been anxious to present themselves at their best.
As far as the Olympic agreement was concerned, Moscow had observed both its word and spirit, he said. No political propaganda, or commercial propaganda for that matter, is allowed in the Olympic Games, but of course "we do not control what happens inside".
I suggested that political leaders of all shades both in Britain and the United States might be indulging in political stunts as a means of getting their message across to the media. "I don't know what is in the mind of President Carter or a Thatcher," he replied, "but it would appear that they have not consulted the Olympic authorities in their respective countries, otherwise they would realize the impossibility of what they were asking".
Some of the rasher statements by some politicians on action platforms could do immense damage, he suggested.

US athletes would observe boycott, Mr Carter says

om David Cross
Washington, Jan 20
President Carter announced today that he is giving the United States a month to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan or face a United States boycott of the Olympic Games in Moscow.
In an interview with reporters NBC television's Meet the Press, the President said: "I am not the American people with Soviet troops in Afghanistan. Unless the Soviets withdraw their troops within a month the games should be moved from Moscow to an alternative site or multiple sites or postponed or cancelled".
Mr Carter said he had sent a message to this effect to the United States Olympic Committee today. Although the Administration has no legal powers to impose a boycott, it believes that the Olympic Committee and American athletes will heed his appeal.
Mr Carter added: "I would personally favour the establishment of a permanent Olympic site for both the summer and winter games". The most appropriate site for the summer Olympics would be Greece where the first games were held, he believed.

Naval concern at safety of roll on, roll off ships

ritish experts are worried about the safety of roll on, roll off freight ships, their open garage decks unbroken by rail divisions. The fear is that if a sea enters the deck there are no watertight divisions to contain the water and to prevent the ship from capsizing, as has happened on several occasions. There are about 2,000 such vessels in service, many working round the British coasts. Page 2

Unhoped shop protest

report by the European Commission of Human Rights is believed to uphold the claim by three British Rail employees at their dismissal for refusing to join a union breached the European Convention on Human Rights. The three employees are now suing the union. The Commission said that the Convention does not require the union to join a union. Ministers are expected to issue a statement on the matter in the near future. Page 2

'Times' correspondent, riding shotgun with Soviet Army, earns looks of hatred from Afghans

Russian troops die as tribesmen ambush convoy in Hindu Kush

From Robert Fisk
Carikan, Afghanistan, Jan 20
Major Yuri of the Soviet army, commanding Russian transport convoy number 58 from Tashkent to Kabul, stood on the icy road just north of Carikan and stared intently at a snow-covered orchard.
"They are shooting from there", he said, and he gave me the kind of penetrating glance that soldiers adopt when they mean business.
I had just expressed the opinion that I had never in my life seen a more peaceful landscape when there were three sharp reports from the direction of the orchard: the sound of bullets cracking through the air sent the Russian troops round me leaping into the cars of their lorries for their rifles. Some of us tumbled into a snowbank beside the road as a curl of blue smoke rose out of the orchard.
Major Yuri, a 30-year-old regular with 13 years of soldiering behind him, a home in Kazakhstan and a wife and daughter whom he was anxious to see within three days, unslinging his Kalashnikov rifle.
We knew that another Soviet convoy had been ambushed down the road in front of us and our own 145 trucks were now strung out along the mountain highway with innocent vulnerability that began to communicate itself to the Soviet troops.

The major motioned to me. "Watch this, Robert", he said, and pulled from his battleship a long tube containing a Very light. We stood together in the snowfield, the slush was above our knees, as he nudged at a cord that hung beneath the tube.
There was a small explosion, a powerful puff of white smoke and a smoke trail that soared high up into the sky. It was watched by the dozen or so Russian soldiers beside us, each of whom knew that our convoy lay painfully exposed to sniper fire.
The smoke trail had passed at 1,000ft in height when it burst into a shower of stars and within 50 seconds a Soviet

Air Force MIG jet fighter swept over us at low level, dipping its wings. A minute later, a tracked armoured personnel carrier, with two of its crew leaning from their hatches, thrashed down the road and slithered to a halt beside our leading lorry.
The radio-telephone began to crackle and Major Yuri lifted the receiver. He listened, then held up four fingers towards me. "They have killed four Russians in the convoy ahead," he said. He showed no emotion, although he lowered his eyes for a few seconds.
We moved gingerly off towards Kabul 15 minutes later. There was little evidence of the ambushes in front of us

for the feed of a dead man being hurriedly pushed into a Soviet Army van near Carikan and a great swathe of crimson and pink slush that spread for several yards down one side of the road. The highway grew more icy at sundown but we drove on at an ever increasing speed.
For more than 100 miles, I had travelled with the Red Army down through the foothills of the Hindu Kush mountains, an extraordinary five-hour journey in the front cab of army trucks, sharing freely with me, shared their rations with me and for one amazing half hour armed me with an automatic rifle so that I could

defend myself if the convoy was attacked.
At times villagers and peasants lined the roadside to watch us pass. It was eerie to sit with a rifle on my lap next to Russian troops and to watch these Afghan people—most of them in turbans, long shawls and rubber shoes—staring at us with contempt.
One man in a blue coat stood on the tailboard of an old lorry and watched me with narrow eyes. He shouted something that was lost in the roar of our convoy. It was the nearest I have ever seen to a look of total hatred.
Major Yuri seemed unperturbed. "I do not think they

Downing St talks on steel strike today

By Our Labour Editor
The Prime Minister is to meet leaders of the two main striking steel unions this morning, but neither side expects much progress towards a settlement of the dispute to come out of the Downing Street talks.
Mrs Margaret Thatcher will re-emphasize the view of the British Steel Corporation that higher pay must be paid for higher productivity in the industry rather than increased public funding.
After meeting the unions, she will have discussions with Sir Charles Villiers, chairman of BSC, and Mr Robert Scholey, his chief executive.
The atmosphere surrounding Mrs Thatcher's first face-to-face confrontation with leaders of the steel strike, which is nearing the end of its third week, was scarcely improved by a remark made by Mr W. S. Sirs, general secretary of the dominant Iron and Steel Trades Confederation.
He told a strike rally in Wolverhampton, West Midlands, that the Prime Minister was "a little naive in industrial matters, to say the least".
A Downing Street spokesman reacted with some asperity, saying that she was "incredibly well briefed and personally well researched on the steel industry".
Mrs Thatcher regards the meeting as an opportunity to hear the unions' case at first hand, an opportunity sought, in fact, by the ISTC, and for her in spirit.



Mr Ray Walker with his mural in Spitalfields, London. Arts Council aid, page 4.

Details of Israel plan for autonomy cast gloom on peace hopes

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, Jan 20
International pessimism over the Middle East peace process increased today with the publication of details of the very limited form of autonomy which Israel proposes to offer the 1.1 million Palestinian Arabs living in the occupied territories.
The Israeli Cabinet subsequently reaffirmed that it intends to stick to the autonomy model in future negotiations, despite its rejection by the Egyptian Government in Cairo last week.
At today's Cabinet meeting, it is understood that Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, accused Egypt of deliberately attempting to distort the Camp David summit by proposing legislative and judicial powers for any Palestinian autonomy authority. Ministers indicated that they saw no room for compromise on this key point.
A senior Israeli official later explained that one of the main reasons why Israel was not prepared to consider any form of legislative power was fear about how it might be used. He explained that Palestinians on the West Bank and on the Gaza Strip might quickly introduce an amendment to the Israeli "Law of Return" which would permit an inflow of large numbers of Palestinian Arabs to the region.
The publication of the Israeli plans has highlighted the enormous diplomatic task now facing America if it is to bridge the gap which the Egyptian demands on autonomy, Israeli ministers have already indicated their determination to resist growing American pressure for a compromise on the Palestinian issue.

foreign affairs and defence; internal security; Israeli inhabitants and settlements; state lands; natural resources and energy; printing of stamps and currency; radio, television and information; aerospace supervision; supervision of territorial sea; main international communication exchanges; internal Telex, international mail; supervision of Israeli banking and insurance institutions in the territories; and representation of the local banking system abroad.
The Israeli document makes clear that the list is not necessarily complete, with the powers laid down being given merely as "examples" of the Israeli approach.
In contrast, with Egyptian suggestions that an 80 to 100-strong locally-elected body should be given legislative and judicial power, the Israeli proposal that an elected 11-man council should be permitted to exercise only administrative functions.
As laid out in the model, these would be in the hands of the council members in charge of the following divisions: agriculture, health, religious affairs, labour and welfare, industry and commerce, transport and communication, education and culture, finance, administration of justice and local affairs (including police).
Egypt has not published such a detailed autonomy plan, but it has presented Israel with a number of position papers. Among the points in these which Israel has already rejected is the idea that any new autonomy authority should embrace the 100,000 residents of East Jerusalem.
There have been increasing signs that the American Government may put forward an autonomy model of its own when Mr Sol Linowitz, President Carter's special envoy, arrives in Israel later this month to take part in a scheduled plenary session of negotiations on the issue.

Yugoslavia on guard after Tito operation

From Dessá Trevisan
Belgrade, Jan 20
Yugoslavia put on a show of increased military vigilance today as President Tito underwent the amputation of his left leg. Damage to arteries had led to complete circulatory blockage, gangrene and set in, on his leg, and his life was evidently in danger.
He is believed hitherto to have resisted amputation, but this morning the team of eight physicians informed him that this was the only option. He said: "Go ahead, and do your job".
Yesterday, the doctors were obviously preparing the nation for the operation, and this morning increased security was noticeable in front of public buildings in anticipation of the result of surgery at midday.
About 12 anti-aircraft guns had been installed overnight near the Belgrade airport, and squadrons of fighter aircraft flew regular sorties throughout the day. But there was no evidence of alarm.
The President is said to have withstood the operation well. His doctors said that his condition before the amputation was better than that of a week ago when he underwent unsuccessful surgery on his leg to relieve a blockage.
The official medical bulletin said: "The immediate post-operative course is normal".
The show of security was intended as a double assurance that Yugoslavia is ready and the leadership prepared for the transition. Messages from the armed forces and security forces are underlining their readiness to defend President Tito's work.
Yugoslav reaction has been sharp to a recent flurry of articles in the Bulgarian press about the Macedonian issue, a bone of contention which has erupted in bitter polemics in recent years.
Yugoslavia suspects that Bulgaria has a special role to play on behalf of Russia in the Balkans, and yesterday accused it of flagrant expressions of "territorial designs", thus jeopardizing trust and stability in the region.
While Yugoslavia has evidently decided to react swiftly to any such Balkan moves, it is welcoming messages supporting Yugoslavia's independence.

Survey finds most trade unionists favour curbs on union powers

By Our Labour Editor
Trade union leaders organizing opposition to the Government's labour law reforms may find their campaign undercut by their own members. This is the clear message emerging from a special poll of attitudes carried out by the Times by Opinion Research and Communications (full report, page 12).
The poll result, published today on the eve of a special TUC conference to coordinate opposition to Mr James Prior's Employment Bill, shows that 61 per cent of trade union members actually favour the legislation to reduce the power of their unions.
Strong support also emerges for the Government's specific proposals on the closed shop, secret ballots and secondary picketing, and there is also a clear majority among trade unionists for Mrs Thatcher's declared intention to tighten the law further in the case of Express Newspapers v. McShane which legitimised sympathetic "blacklisting" in industrial disputes.
The only consolation for TUC leaders is the disclosure that 50 per cent of active trade unionists believe that it is right for the unions to fight the forthcoming legislation rather than accept any reduction in their powers. The fight against the Heath Government's 1971 Industrial Relations Act started with the activists, and eventually involved the whole labour movement.
ORC first asked a representative national quota of 1,039 electors whether they thought the unions had too much power and should be curbed. Not surprisingly, 83 per cent of non-trade union workers felt this was true, but 68 per cent of trade union members agreed with the proposition. Among active trade union members, the figure was 56 per cent.
Turning to the new law which ORC said would "reduce trade union power in certain ways", 78 per cent of non-trade union workers favoured it, and 61 per cent of trade union members took the same view. When inactive members were excluded, the proportion in favour tumbled to 45 per cent in favour with 44 per cent against.
And when asked: "Do you think that the unions should accept this new law curbing their powers, or do you think they should fight it?", 50 per cent of active trade union members said they should fight it, and 39 per cent said they should not. The figure against confrontation rose to 56 per cent among trade union members as a whole, and to 76 per cent among non-trade union workers.
When it comes down to the actual content of the Employment Bill, active trade unionists appear to contradict their willingness to fight its provisions.

For instance 59 per cent of trade union members favour the Government's plans to curb the closed shop—a view also taken by 55 per cent of activists.
On the principle of the closed shop, 29 per cent of trade union members say it is a bad thing and should be abolished (21 per cent in the case of activists) while 53 per cent say it should only be allowed where the great majority of members vote for having it (60 per cent among activists). The latter position more closely resembles that of the Government.
Opinion is much more strongly expressed on the issue of picketing. Although ORC made its opinion survey before the striking steel makers had begun their campaign of flying pickets, the poll found that 68 per cent of all active trade unionists support the Government's intention to change the law relating to picketing, and 67 per cent of trade unionists agree. A remarkable 66 per cent of activists take the same view.
Told that the new law will make it illegal for strikers to put pickets anywhere except outside their own place of work, 86 per cent of all active trade unionists also support it, and the figure for activists is 70 per cent.
The survey found very strong public support for secret ballots before strikes and for the election of trade union leaders and officials.

Reputation of MI5 man is defended

By Stewart Tendler
Sir William Stephenson, head of Britain's wartime security organisation in New York and known as "The Man Called Intrepid" yesterday defended the reputation of MI5, formerly the deputy director of MI5, against allegations of involvement in the "Philly affair".
Yesterday The Observer published details of an interview by Mr Andrew Boyle, author of The Climate of Treason, with Mr Goronwy Rees before the academic died recently in a London hospital. In the 1930s Guy Burgess admitted to Mr Rees that he was an agent for Communism and named Professor Anthony Blunt as another spy.
Before he died Mr Rees told Mr Boyle that there were links between Professor Blunt, Burgess and Mr Liddell at the end of the last war. Mr Rees said: "There was to my mind something sinister about Liddell's quiet protectiveness in regard to both Blunt and Burgess".
He claimed that in 1951, when Burgess and Maclean fled, Prof Blunt and Mr Liddell tried to persuade him not to tell his story of Burgess's revelations to MI5 in the 1930s.
The interview also suggested that Mr Liddell was a source of information for Burgess. Mr Rees added that "Liddell and Blunt were so close socially that I believe a single word would have been enough for a warning to have been passed to Burgess" which would have led to the defections in 1951.
In a telegram from the West Indies released yesterday, Sir William, Director of British Security Coordination in the Western Hemisphere from 1940 to 1946, said there had been no serious accusations against a man he knew long and intimately as an able, honourable, exceptionally outstanding leading member of the service".
—Mr Liddell's career, page 3

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England go down in a thrilling finish

England lost the first match in the final of the World Series Cricket Cup by two runs against West Indies at Melbourne. In a thrilling finish England's captain, Brearley, had to score four off the last ball for victory but his partner was run out after they had run only one. Page 6

CBI call for action to create new jobs

The Confederation of British Industry says action must be taken to create at least 2,500,000 new jobs in the next decade to bring unemployment down to about one million. In a discussion document to be published today, the CBI says labour is used inefficiently. Details, page 15

Terror toll in Spain

In a weekend that has seen Spain's worst civil war casualties in political violence since last summer's Basque bombings in Madrid, five people have died. Page 4

Bird deaths query

Mr David Abou, Liberal MP for Liverpool, Edge Hill, is to table a question in the Commons on the way industries' discharging effluents can get the protection of water authorities. The query comes after "an unprecedented incident" in which 2,500 birds were found dead in the Mersey estuary. Page 4

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HOME NEWS

Roll on, roll off freight ships with open garage decks potential death traps, naval men consider

By Michael Bailey
Shipping Correspondent

There is widespread concern among maritime experts over the safety of one of the world's fastest growing ship types, the roll on, roll off ferry, about 2,000 of which are in service, many around British coasts.

Concern centres on the huge, unobstructed garage deck characteristic of these ships and the danger that, as has happened a number of times, sea water entering the deck by collision or other cause will rush about in a mass and make the vessel capsize and nose dive, possibly too quickly for people on board to escape.

It should be emphasized that the fear attaches primarily to that type of freight ship; drive-on passenger ferries, those operating across the Channel, are subject to more stringent rules.

But that leaves many ships operating with a lack of vertical subdivisions and a low freeboard (the distance between the water line and the lowest water-tight deck), thus, in the view of many experts, contravening the rules of sound ship design. A committee of the Inter-governmental Maritime Consultative Committee (Imco), the United Nations maritime arm, is studying the matter with a view to formulating new rules.

The issue is so sensitive that neither of the two main responsible bodies in Britain, the Department of Trade or Lloyd's Register of Shipping, was prepared to discuss it with The Times.

That may be not only for fear of alarming the public, but because the issue appears to have become politicized at Imco by the Soviet Union and her allies, who are calling for such extensive deck subdivisions that in the view of Western experts

the ships would be unable to operate viably. The reason for the Soviet attitude, it is suggested, is the high strategic value of Western Europe's ships of that type (possibly half the world fleet) in the event of war; they are the most readily convertible to military use.

Research by the Imco committee has shown that the total number of losses of undivided ships is proportionately twice as great as of divided ships such as tankers, bulk carriers and passenger vessels.

Safety and stability in passenger ships are achieved by several means, including extensive subdivision below the freeboard deck, so that water entering through a hole would not flood the lower part of the ship, and a high freeboard, ensuring a good distance between the water level and the deck below which the ship is considered watertight.

Many roll on, roll off ships have no internal subdivision, and the freeboard is only a few inches. That, combined with the "free surface effect" of the garage deck, makes them, according to one naval architect, "potential death traps".

Others believe this type of ship, most of which are modern, high-technology vessels, to be fundamentally sound, requiring only minor modifications and special care by crews to maintain buoyancy and stability in case of accident.

Two recent cases were the Seaspeed Dora, a Greek-owned vessel that sank suddenly at Jeddah in June, 1977, and the Hero, a British ship, owned by the Ellerman Line, of Britain, and the Danish DFDS, which sank in the North Sea in November, 1977.

Commenting afterwards on the loss of the Seaspeed Dora, Captain M. Maris, the owners' United Kingdom agent and

technical expert, said the incident showed that present Imco rules "do not cover certain factors that are specific to 'roll-on' ships".

He suggested some modifications, including the raising of any shipside doors higher above the freeboard.

The official report of the inquiry into the loss of the Hero, published last August, found that the ship sank because water entered the garage deck and could not get out, but made no general comment on "roll-on" design.

Behind the scenes, however, the Hero's loss has intensified the Department of Trade's concern: a series of meetings have been held with industry experts and are continuing.

Two of Britain's leading "roll-on" operators are European Ferries, with about twenty, and British Rail Sealink, with about thirty.

Mr. W. Ayres, technical director of European Ferries, said: "With one exception all our 'roll-on' ferries fully comply with passenger requirements. The exception is the Hero, a cargo ship, with a substantially higher freeboard than required by the rules."

Sealink's architects' department said: "We have been increasing the freeboard and are happy with the safety of our 'roll-on' ships. But we must be aware all the time of further small ways of making them safer still."

France, after suffering a number of "roll-on" accidents, has joined the Eastern block in Imco in calling for radical subdivisions, including the garage decks. Mr. Lenz, the secretary of the special committee, says it will be some time before conclusions are reached.

He attributes the present difference in attitude to technical rather than strategic opinion.

Dispute threatens unity of Civil Service unions

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

A dispute is developing that threatens to cause a split among the eight civil service unions over an attempt by the three largest to take control of negotiations on conditions of work.

Pay negotiations under a plan proposed by the Society of Civil and Public Servants (SCPS), the Civil and Public Servants Association (CPSA), and the Institution of Professional Civil Servants (IPCS) would remain in the hands of individual unions.

But other matters, such as negotiations on holiday and sickness benefits and implementation of certain awards, would come under the three big unions, which together have two thirds of the total union membership in the Civil Service.

The smaller unions fear that the gang of three, as it was described by one official, will be able to dictate to them and to lead them in political directions to which they are opposed.

At present there is a negotiating body which comprises general secretaries and sometimes one other senior official from each union and which meets each week under the auspices of the staff side of the Civil Service Whitley Council.

An official of one of the smaller unions, however, said the big three unions' move: "We do not like the idea, and what we are trying to do is modify it in some way so that a union would be represented on any negotiations which affected its interests."

It is understood that the bigger unions have offered such a compromise, but it is difficult to see how it would work in practice, because negotiations for the whole Civil Service inevitably affect every union.

The three unions have a combined membership of about 400,000, while the five smaller unions have some 150,000, including the 21,000 in the Prison Officers' Association.

Another fear of the smaller unions is that if they appear to have been stripped of their negotiating powers, it would be more difficult for them to retain autonomy.

The unions leading the move are the SCPS and the CPSA, whose leadership in recent years has been increasingly militant. This dispute centres on the pay negotiations, last agreed, that ended in industrial action. Some of the bigger unions, particularly the SCPS, felt that their efforts were balked by the smaller unions.

The CPSA, which traditionally has been less militant than the other two big unions, was initially reluctant to join the three, but now appears to have decided that it cannot afford to stay out.

Although the plan has created bitterness between the unions, there is unlikely to be any agreement on the pay negotiations due to start shortly against the background of the Government's determination to contain public employees' pay rises to about 14 per cent.

The unions are expecting investigations by the Civil Service Pay Research Unit, which measures the level of increases needed to keep pace with similar jobs in the public sector, to be a factor in the negotiations.

The 18-man directorate will meet within a fortnight to elect a temporary acting chairman. If the post is then contested, a postal ballot will be held among members.

Mr. Andrew Brown, aged 34, the largest of the directorate, a lecturer in government and law, said yesterday that none of the members of the directorate wanted Mr. Tyndall to resign.

Mr. Tyndall made clear yesterday that he would remain an active member of the Front and stay in the directorate.

He said: "I am convinced that I can survive, but only with the leadership. The matter is now entirely in the hands of the members."

Estimated phone bills to beat strike

By Paul Routledge
Labour Reporter

The Post Office Corporation is to introduce a new method of sending out estimated telephone bills to avert a repetition of the effects of the financially crippling strike by computer operators last year.

The proposal caused a dispute within the corporation's data processing service, with the management threatening to suspend members of the Society of Civil and Public Servants for refusing to write the computer programmes because they would minimize the impact of any future industrial action.

Discussions open today between the SCPS and the management, designed to endorse a formula for introducing the scheme acceptable to both sides. The union complained that the corporation had broken procedure by not consulting on the change.

The five-month strike by computer staff at the Leeds and Harmondsworth Told Telephone Co-Ltd Data Centres between April and August last year in pursuit of a pay claim held up dispatch of bills amounting to an estimated £1,000m.

The corporation had to borrow huge sums, and the union said the strike cost £80m in lost revenue and interest charges.

It was to forestall a recurrence of that financial crisis that the Post Office management decided to introduce an emergency procedure for sending out estimated bills to millions of consumers in the event of a similar strike, or industrial action by workers outside the bill centres, which had the same effect.

But when the plan was put to staff at Docos House, the data processing service offices in London, the handful of SCPS computer staff involved refused to agree to the change. The union said the plan was a "betrayal" of the staff.

Over the past few days, joint talks between union and management have produced a draft formula that would allow introduction of the new scheme.

Mr. Terry Deegan, SCPS Post Office group secretary, said last night: "We regret that management attempted to introduce this change without consultation, but now that they have agreed to observe the proper procedure we shall give it high priority because we recognize the need for an emergency billing procedure."

NF chairman resigns after failing to win more power

By Ian Bradley

Mr. John Tyndall is resigning as chairman of the National Front from the end of this month.

He announced his decision yesterday after a meeting of the Front's national directorate had failed to give him powers which he feels are necessary to prevent the party from breaking up.

Mr. Tyndall, who is 45, has been a member of the National Front since 1968 and chairman since 1972, except for a short break in 1974-75. From 1962 to 1964 he was national secretary of the National Socialist Movement, led by Mr. Colin Jordan.

There has been growing concern among the leadership of the Front over the last few months about the development of the so-called "constitutional movement", led by Mr. Andrew Fountaine and Mr. Paul Kavanagh, two former members of the directorate who were expelled last autumn, claims to have attracted more than 2,000 members of the National Front dissatisfied with its leadership.

Mr. Tyndall also mentioned a breakaway party led by Mr. Anthony Reed-Herbert, another former member of the directorate, which has gained support in the Midlands.

He said: "The support that these breakaway movements have gained is symptomatic of the general demoralization of the party, which is due to the directorate's failure to take certain decisions."

"Chief among these is their failure to remove Martin Webster, that has led to mass desertions from the party."

Mr. Webster, the Front's national secretary, has been criticized by Mr. Tyndall several times in the past few weeks.

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Women killed on mountain

Two women roped together plunged hundreds of feet to their deaths in a snow-covered area known as the "Lost Valley", in Glencoe, Inverness-shire, Scotland, at the weekend.

A mountain rescue team yesterday recovered the bodies of Dr. Wilsey Paret, aged 33, a careers officer, of Pipeland Road, St. Andrews, Fife, and

Miss Margaret Veitch, a student, aged 23, of Gatehouse of Fleet, Dumfries.

An RAF helicopter yesterday rescued two climbers injured in separate accidents in the Lake District. One broke a leg in an avalanche on 'Scot Fell'. The other fell 900 feet from Striding Edge, on Helvellyn. Both are in hospital.



Mr. Rory Brady, president of the Provisional Sinn Féin, addressing the party's annual convention in Dublin yesterday.

Railmen's closed shop dismissals 'breached human rights charter'

By Marcel Berlins
Legal Correspondent

Within the next few days the Government will receive a report by the European Commission of Human Rights which, it is believed, says that the dismissal by British Rail of three railwaymen who refused to join a trade union contravenes the European Convention on Human Rights.

The possible implications of the decision for the closed shop provisions of the Government's Employment Bill are likely to be raised during the Bill's committee stage this week.

The three men, Mr. Noel James, Mr. Roger Webster and Mr. Ian Young, were dismissed after British Rail entered into closed shop agreements.

The men applied to the European Commission in Strasbourg, claiming that their treatment breached three articles of the Convention: the right to freedom of thought and conscience; freedom of expression; and, perhaps most important, freedom of association with others, including the right to form and to join trade unions.

It was argued on their behalf that freedom to join a trade union under that article implied also freedom not to join a trade union.

The commission's report on the case was adopted last month, and will now be given to the Committee of Ministers (of the 21 member states of the Council of Europe) and to the United Kingdom Government. It is laid down that the Government "shall not be at liberty to publish it".

Officially, the Government still does not know what the report says, but ministers are confident that its contents would not require a reassessment of the Employment Bill.

If the commission has in effect taken the view that the closed shop, as such, is against the Convention, Britain would almost certainly make the matter further, to the European Court of Human Rights, for a final and binding ruling.

If however, as is likely, the commission has taken a narrow approach, basing its findings on the specific circumstances of the three men, there appear to be no dangerous implications for the future of the Government's legislation or closed shop agreements in general.

Under clause 6 of the Employment Bill, dismissal of an employee because of his non-membership of a trade union would be unlawful if his refusal was on the grounds of conscience or other deeply held

personal conviction to being a member, or if he was already an employee when the closed shop agreement came into effect.

In the case of new closed shop agreements, dismissal for non-membership would be unlawful unless a secret ballot had shown more than 80 per cent of the employees in favour of the closed shop. Any finding of unfair dismissal would carry with it the right to financial compensation.

Sir Ian Percival, QC, the Solicitor General, who argued the case in Strasbourg last July on behalf of the Conservative Government, pointed out that under the Government's proposals people in similar circumstances to the three railwaymen would not be left without a remedy, so there would be no breach of the Convention.

However, the Government is worried about a different aspect of the case. It believes, as did its Labour predecessor, that the case should not have come before the commission in the first place. The Convention applies only to contraventions by states.

The Government says that although "British Rail" is a nationalized industry it runs its own affairs and is not an arm of the state.

Ministers given deadline for decisions on cuts

By Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Ministers involved in the Government's latest public expenditure cuts exercise have been told that their proposals must be completed within the next fortnight so that a decision can be taken by the Cabinet.

Treasury ministers have been holding almost daily talks with their colleagues in departments most expected to cut their programmes, with the aim of meeting the target figure of £1,000m cuts for the financial year 1980-81.

The Department of Health and Social Security is undoubtedly the most hard pressed department as a source for cuts, having been asked to find at least half of the total savings. Areas being examined include removing the automatic link with inflation from social security benefits.

On top of these cuts there came warnings yesterday of the possibility of budget increases in petrol, tobacco or alcohol. When Mr. John Biffen, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, was asked about the possibility of such increases, he said he was responsible only for public expenditure, but agreed that those issues, although speculative, had been discussed by MPs.

But Mr. Biffen, interviewed on The World this weekend, said there had to be a balance between direct and indirect taxation and excise duties. He pointed out that taxes on tobacco, alcohol and petrol had not increased anything like as much

as other indirect taxation, namely value-added tax.

Whitehall was careful to point out yesterday that public expenditure cuts and any possible tax increases in the Chancellor's Budget on March 25 were two separate issues. The Government's intention was to get public expenditure down by £2,000m for the next financial year, half of that, it was hoped, would come out of discretionary cuts, the EEC's contribution to the Community budget.

Signs that arguments developing in Whitehall between the Treasury and the spending departments are getting tougher came in a speech by Mr. Biffen on Saturday, when he said that prudent control of public spending was central to the economic fortunes of the Government.

It was such expenditure more than any other factor that would set the scene for the Chancellor's taxation and borrowing policies, he told a meeting in London of the Conservative Political Centre.

Hard experience tells us there are limits to the levels of taxation that can be levied in a Western democracy," he said. "The resentment and anger of a taxpayers' revolt is never that far absent—as the example of California will testify."

Thus we must have realistic levels of public spending that will not undermine the longer-term strategy of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to reduce rates of direct taxation."

Escaped soldiers back in custody

By Christopher Thomas
Belfast

Three soldiers who escaped from military custody at Alderbrook airport near Belfast, on Saturday were in police custody last night.

One telephone the Royal Ulster Constabulary yesterday morning, from the Saintfield area, several miles from Belfast, and gave himself up. The other two were detained in a car in the afternoon at Comber and taken to Newtownards police

station, a Down. An army issue unloaded rifle was in the car.

The police said the two were arrested without resistance. The three, members of the Green Howards, had been in custody for minor offences.

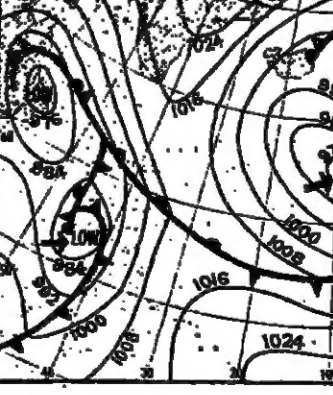
Murder victim found: The body of a British soldier, who was murdered in Londonderry on Friday was discovered yesterday in his wrecked car at the bottom of an embankment. Mr. Frank Cox, aged 35, married with two children, was driving along the Limavady road on his

way home from night duty at the Magilligan prison when his car was hit by a hail of bullets.

Explosion 'was premature': The Provisional IRA has claimed that the bomb that exploded in a Belfast-bound commuter train on Thursday was off prematurely, killing one of its volunteers. Mr. Kevin Delaney, aged 26, from Belfast.

They offered deepest sympathy to the relatives of the dead. "The intended target was not the civilians on the train."

Weather forecast and recordings



Today

Sun rises: 7.55 am
Sun sets: 4.29 pm
Moon sets: 9.53 am
Moon rises: 9.26 pm

First quarter: January 24

Lighting: up: 4.59 pm to 7.24 am
High water: London Bridge, 3.59 am, 7.5m; 4.28 pm, 7.5m. Avonmouth, 9.40 am, 13.6m; 10.02 pm, 13.4m. Dover, 1.00 am, 7.0m; 1.23 am, 6.7m. Bull, 8.36 am, 1.23 am, 8.42 pm, 7.7m. Liverpool, 1.23 am, 1.41 pm, 9.8m.

1ft = 3.048m 1m = 3.281 ft

A vigorous and deep depression will cross the Irish Republic, with frontal troughs crossing many districts of the United Kingdom.

Forecast for 6 am to midnight: East Anglia, Midlands: Mostly cloudy with periods of sleet or rain, possibly heavy, turning to rain and then showers. Wind SE, backing to S, strong to gale, backing N, moderating later; max temp 3°C (39°F).

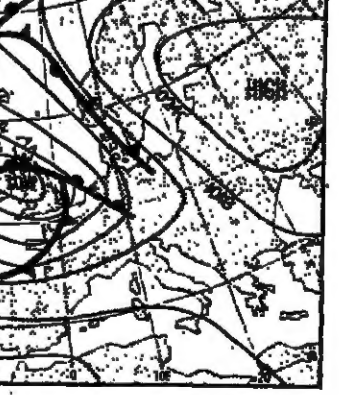
NW, Central N and NE England, Lake District: Cloudy, periods of sleet or snow, heavy in places with drifting, turning to rain; wind SE, strong to gale, backing N, moderating later; max temp 3°C (39°F).

Wales: Mostly cloudy, periods of rain or snow turning showery, perhaps further snow later; wind S, strong to gale, veering W, fresh; max temp 4°C (39°F).

Life of rain: Cloudy, periods of rain or snow, heavy in places with drifting, turning to rain; wind SE, strong to gale, backing N, moderating later; max temp 3°C (39°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Wednesday: Generally cold and unsettled with outbreaks of rain or snow in many places; rather windy; night frosts.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover: Wind SE, veering SW, strong to gale. Locally severe gale for a time. Sea very rough.



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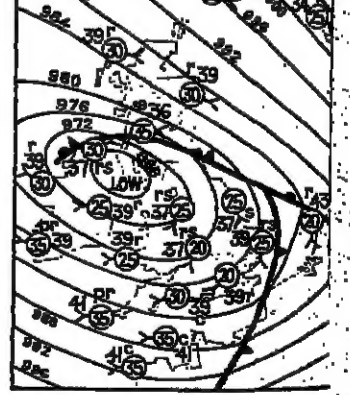
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Overseas selling prices		Overseas selling prices	
Australia	£1.50	Australia	£1.50
Canada	£1.50	Canada	£1.50
France	£1.50	France	£1.50
Germany	£1.50	Germany	£1.50
Italy	£1.50	Italy	£1.50
Japan	£1.50	Japan	£1.50
Spain	£1.50	Spain	£1.50
Switzerland	£1.50	Switzerland	£1.50
USA	£1.50	USA	£1.50

HOME NEWS

Scottish groups out to kill Bill that extends police powers

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh

The Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill, which begins its committee stage in Parliament at the end of this month, has already caused a predictable stir of discontent from civil liberties groups because of the extra powers it would give to police.

If the Bill is approved, Scottish police will have the right to stop and search anyone they have reasonable grounds to suspect of carrying an offensive weapon in public.

In addition, police would be able to detain any suspect for up to six hours, using "reasonable force" if necessary, and to require a suspect or potential witnesses to remain in police presence long enough to enable the police to make reasonable checks.

The Scottish Council for Civil Liberties said the extended police powers created a new concept of detention short of arrest. Given the existing powers of the police, the council believed that the new proposals were unnecessary.

They would lessen rather than strengthen the control of the police and invite abuse because of the absence of any external controls. They would contribute nothing to the greater prevention or detection of crimes and offences.

Many of the more thoughtful police officers, the council said, considered the proposed powers unnecessary, and would lead to poorer police-public relationships.

Many of the proposed changes

in court procedure and the rules of evidence were seen by the council as direct attacks on the rights of suspects.

An accused person appearing on a serious charge would have to submit to a pre-trial examination at which he could be questioned about his defence. The exercise of his right to silence could be commented on at subsequent court proceedings.

The Campaign to Stop the Scottish Criminal Justice Bill argues that existing police powers are wider than is commonly believed and already strong enough. The example of the drugs laws already showed they would not deter law breakers.

The rights of citizens, the campaign declares, should not be sacrificed in the name only of increased police efficiency.

What has helped to bring about a demand for stronger controls in Scotland are the recent vicious assaults and murders. The murder rate in Glasgow is almost double that of other cities of the same size.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland, describes the Bill as the most radical, desirable and comprehensive reform of Scottish law for many years.

He pointed out that the powers to search would be less than those given to airport security officers.

"To suggest that this amounts to destruction of civil liberties is like suggesting that the fire brigades are destroying our freedom if they enter a burning house without the permission of the owner," he said.

Guy Liddell, the professional who held together a band of gifted amateurs 'Founding father' of MI5 had a democratic attitude

By Stewart Tendler

Mr Guy Liddell belonged to the type of civil servant whose entry in Who's Who was, and still is, terse to the point of being opaque. He is described as "Civil Assistant, War Office" and there is little to show he was among the "founding fathers" of MI5, retiring as deputy director.

It was perhaps a fitting job for the descendant of Alice Liddell, the model for Alice in Wonderland. Scion of an aristocratic Northumberland family, Mr Liddell was the son of a comptroller to the household of one of Queen Victoria's family.

According to friends, relatives and former colleagues, his beliefs were fashioned by the late Victorian times into which he was born and they maintain that he never deviated from deep patriotism, conservatism and strong Christianity.

He was born in 1892 and his early life bears little resemblance to the one named in the "Philby affair". Educated at a minor public school, Mr Liddell never went to university, won an MC in the First World War (as did his two brothers) and was in counter-espionage while Philby and the others were still children.

It was thought that he would go into the Foreign Office but after a year he joined Scotland Yard, working as a counter-espionage officer.

According to one source his early work included a continuing investigation into the Siege of Sidney Street.

He had a liaison with MI5 and early in the 1930s moved over to the service. To one col-

league he was "a rather tangential man. He was not a good organizer or one who followed through his ideas, but he had a very fruitful mind."

As war approached in 1939 he was responsible for reorganizing the communications department of the Foreign Office after a Russian defector revealed "serious leaks, which were traced to a former Army officer."

He had also worked during the 1930s in building up contacts with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the FBI in the United States. Mr J. Edgar Hoover, the director of the FBI, presented him with a large cigarette lighter in token of their work together.

It has been claimed that Mr Liddell delayed the American response to warnings of Pearl Harbour by passing the information through Hoover rather than more immediate routes to the War Office. Those who defend him point out that the FBI was a right channel and the Admiralty also passed on a warning.

As MI5 was enlarged under wartime conditions Mr Liddell is credited with holding together the disparate collection of gifted amateurs drafted in from the universities. He offered an "unbureaucratic, democratic" attitude which appealed to the dons and earned him the nickname of "Darling Guy" among subordinates.

His theory of office politics was that the more important the decision the lower the level at which it should be taken, since the men on the ground knew the situation best.

By 1945, Mr Liddell was one of the two key figures in MI5



Guy Liddell, art collector and a good cellist.

below the director. As head of B Division he had been in charge of the operation to turn Axis spies against their masters.

Separated from his wife, a member of the Baring family, in the 1930s (not 1943, as suggested by Mr Goronwy Rees) he was among the group of intelligence men who mixed socially during the war years in a circle that included Philby, (Prof) Blunt and others.

Mr Liddell's friends strongly dispute Mr Rees's suggestion that he was a friend of Burgess, and quote his strong disapprobation.

When Professor Blunt tried to get Burgess recruited into MI5 Mr Liddell took advice and

refused to bring him into the organization.

Despite the nature of his work Mr Liddell was something of an aesthete in the sense that he was a very good cellist and a keen collector of paintings and English pottery. Both he and Professor Blunt were also members of the Travellers' Club.

Based at "PO Box 500, Curzon Street", Mr Liddell rose through the service to become deputy director as the Cold War developed. He was an inveterate chain smoker and driver of an aging Austin Seven, and his life was bounded by the service, a wide circle of friends, concerts with a Bromley orchestra and recitals with several famous musicians.

But outside his office he rarely spoke about his work, and he held the postwar spy stories in disdain.

In 1951 he was involved in plans to interrogate Maclean when the diplomat fled with Burgess. Mr Rees has said there was a 10-day gap before he was interviewed about events by Mr Liddell. Intelligence sources say the story he had to "baked" at first and there were more immediate priorities.

Mr Liddell left MI5 in 1953, a year after he was due to retire, and was made a Companion of the Order of the Bath. In 1944 he was made CBE. Mr Liddell became responsible for security for the growing atomic energy industry. He died still working in 1958.

He took with him much of his own account of what happened during the war and in 1951. But papers still remain. He was a keen diarist and his family passed his diaries to MI5, where they are now stored.

Manx talks on cutting all ties with Whitehall

From Our Correspondent Douglas

A Manx Government deputation will be in London today for talks with the Home Secretary on increased independence for the Isle of Man. Its members hope Mr William Whitelaw will open the way for talks leading to full internal autonomy for the island by removing all Whitehall control over Manx domestic affairs.

In June the Manx Parliament, Tynwald, reaffirmed that as the guiding principle in the development of the future constitutional relationship between the Manx and British Governments.

The Manx Government's Home Office control over Manx domestic legislation.

The leader of the delegation, Mr Charles Kerruish, Speaker of the House of Keys, said yesterday: "We hope to find out what the attitude of the Home Secretary is and what the ground rules might be in the discussions to come."

"It is a large constitutional advance that we have in mind, but one which is long overdue. We are lagging far behind the progress that has been made by the world's colonial nations in the last 20 years."

Rector files claim for damage to vestments

From Our Correspondent Peterborough

A clergyman is claiming compensation from Peterborough City Council after his vestments caught fire while he was conducting funeral services at its crematorium.

The Rev Robert Taylor, rector of Haddon, was wearing a nylon surplice, which burst into flames when it touched a gas fire that had been installed while the central heating system was being repaired. His cassock was also burnt.

The rector's claim for £100.80 to pay for a new cassock and surplice has been sent to the council's insurers.

More hostels to stay open all day

The Youth Hostels Association is aiming to have more hostels open seven days a week and more open all day. Mrs Jean Corlett, the association's Lakeland regional chairman told hostellers at the weekend.

Speaking in Kendal at the annual meeting of the region, the biggest in England and Wales, Mrs Corlett said: "It is not realistic for some hostels to be open seven days, but some key hostels in London, York and other places could remain open every day."

In this, the jubilee year of the association, Mrs Corlett said, they intended to simplify the grading of hostels to leave only three: special, standard and simple. They would also be preparing in the next decade for computerized bookings.

At the same time wardens could expect progress towards better accommodation and remuneration, and towards a five-day week. More hostels, however, were unlikely.

"Some small, uneconomic hostels will be closed. Also, when fire escape provisions come, others are likely to close also because they will not be able to meet the financial requirements."

"But there will be an increase in special hostels and more refined simple ones, with more provision for self-catering and family accommodation."

Man on double murder charge dies in prison

A man awaiting trial on a double murder charge died at Brixton prison, London, yesterday. The Home Office said the coroner and next of kin had been told about the death of Rick Zladoslaw Czaykowski, aged 19.

He had been committed in custody on charges of murdering Virginia Bateman, aged 24, hairdresser, whose body was found in Richmond Park in August, and Belinda Best-White, aged 27, whose body was on waste ground near her home in Canbury Park Road, Kingston, Surrey, on September 1.

Last night the Home Office refused to release details of how the prisoner died.

'Armageddon' call for civil defence corps

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

In the event of war, British troops on the European mainland would feel they were fighting for nothing if the people they were trying to defend were left totally unprotected, according to a Greater London Young Conservatives' booklet, which strongly criticises government policy on civil defence.

The morale and will of the people would have a direct bearing on the troops' ability to carry on.

The booklet, to be published next month, says it does not appear to have occurred to the powers that be to ensure that advance preparations are adequate.

The Home Office budget of £26m a year, while effectively utilised, "falls massively short" of the United Kingdom's necessary investment in the survival of its population in a modern war.

Among the recommendations in the booklet, *A Place Called Armageddon*, is a call for the establishment of a civil defence corps composed of volunteers with a small professional cadre. Their duties should include acting as advisers to the public, telling them what to do before and after attack and acting as mobile reconnaissance teams to monitor fallout.

A national home defence inspectorate should be formed to monitor local authority preparations and to ensure that minimum standards are being maintained.

A system of pre-attack food rationing must be introduced, to enable everyone to lay in basic stocks to survive after attack. Stocks of food could be preserved by freeze-drying in blast-proof and radiation-proof shelters, for distribution after attack.

Nuclear deterrent, page 10

Welsh holiday home burnt

Another suspicious fire broke out yesterday at a holiday home in Wales, a single-storey cottage in Abermule, near Newton Powys. Firemen were unable to save it.

The cottage, which is at the side of the Montgomery canal, is owned by an Englishman. Forensic science experts searched for clues to the cause of the fire.

In recent weeks several attacks have been made on holiday homes in Wales. Earlier this

month an attempt was made to set a cottage in North Wales on fire by pouring paraffin through the letter box, and the words "Free Wales Army" were daubed on the walls. Just before Christmas seven holiday cottages were set on fire.

A police officer said yesterday: "No extremist Welsh nationalist organization has claimed responsibility and at the moment we do not know whether an extremist group was responsible for this fire."

Exhibition reflects growing interest in antique maps

By a Staff Reporter

Investors who have been priced out of the art market are turning instead to antique maps, according to Stanley Gibbons International, leading dealers in maps, stamps and coins.

"They are still much cheaper than a painting," Mr Yasha Beresin, head of Gibbons's maps department, says. "You can get a nineteenth-century

map for as little as £3, so people wanting an alternative investment, who cannot afford paintings or watercolours, are turning to maps."

Maps had proved to be a popular investment because they could be appreciated for their aesthetic qualities as well as their monetary value. "You cannot hang a stamp or gold bar on the wall."

Gibbons have just launched a public exhibition of some 100 antique maps of the Holy Land and Middle East, where maps can be bought for anything from £15 to £1,000.

The most expensive map in their stock is Mercator's "Hemispheres", from his famous atlas, for sale at £2,500. Gibbons now include maps with stamps and bonds in investment portfolios compiled for clients.

At the exhibition, which lasts until the end of February, are maps dating from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries. They include an early woodcut view from the first edition of the Nuremberg Chronicle, circa 1493, showing the destruction of Jerusalem.

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Discretionary rule on benefits tightened and school-leavers' right delayed in Bill

By Pat Healy

Social Services Correspondent

The Government's Social Security Bill, which aims principally at breaking the earnings link for pension increases and reforming the supplementary benefits scheme, begins its committee stage in the Commons tomorrow.

Committee members have been given a briefing which spells out some of the areas that regulations will cover under the Bill.

The new regulations indicate that the discretionary rules under which families can claim lump sums to pay for essential clothing and shoes will be much tighter, and that the new rule delaying the right to benefit for school-leavers will discriminate against those leaving at the end of the summer term.

The Bill will not add to the social security budget, but will redistribute £60m among claimants. Thus, the gains for 700,000 people, mainly lone parents and the unemployed, will be paid for by losses for 1,800,000 people, mainly pensioners.

Some 19,000 claimants will lose more than £3 a week under the Bill, while 118,000 will gain more than £3.10 a week.

The briefing shows that the Government intends to use regulations to reduce considerably the number of lump sum payments to claimants. In 1978, the last date for which figures are available, 392,000 families received average sums of £22 under that heading to pay for essential clothing and shoes.

The briefing states that such payments will still be made, but only in prescribed cases and for prescribed amounts.

For purchases of essential clothing, they will be made only where people could have claimed benefit but did not do so; where the need has arisen other than by wear and tear; or where sickness or admission to hospital makes certain purchases necessary.

In exceptional cases essential clothing payments may also be made "where in the opinion of the benefit officer an expense has been, or has to be, incurred in order to avoid severe hardship" and where no other statutory authority has a duty to meet the expense.

Miss Ruth Lister, director of the Child Poverty Action Group, described the new regulations yesterday as "disturbing".

She estimated that the number of payments for clothing

and shoes would be halved. Yet families often could survive on benefit only by eking out their weekly amounts with occasional lump sums to pay for clothing and shoes.

The briefing shows that school-leavers will not be able to claim benefit until the first week in January if they leave at the end of the December term, or the week after Easter Monday if they leave after the spring term.

In both cases school-leavers would not normally expect to start work until after the public holidays. But those leaving at the end of the summer term will not be able to claim benefit until the first week in September, leaving a considerable gap without income for those unable to find work quickly.

The new equal treatment regulations, which will allow married women to claim benefits for dependants on the same basis as men, will not take effect until November, 1983.

The new regulations will also allow couples on supplementary benefit to qualify for the higher long-term rate when either reaches the age of 65, instead of only when the man reaches that age. There were 6,000 such couples in November, 1978.

HOME NEWS

MP to raise pollution of estuary after 2,500 birds are killed

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

The way industries discharge hazardous effluents can gain the protection of water authorities is being questioned by Mr David Alton, the Liberal MP for Liverpool, Edge Hill.

The matter is being raised in parliamentary written question specifically about the pollution of the Mersey estuary by the most toxic of the lead compounds, which has produced one of the most serious destructions of wildlife on record.

The cause of the trouble has yet to be established and is the subject of a meeting in Liverpool today between the North West Water Authority, the Associated Ocel Company, scientists from government laboratories and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, and representatives of local authorities.

The type of pollution and the nature of the hazard have been described by Dr James Cadbury, head of research of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, as an unprecedented incident.

About 2,500 dunlin, redshank, curlew, black-headed gulls and ducks were found dead on feeding grounds on the north side of the estuary.

Organic lead was found in the tissues of the birds in analyses at the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology and at Liverpool University in November.

The concentrations of between 10 and 40 parts a million of organic lead compare with about one part a million of total lead recorded in tissues of birds

from the Tees estuary, one of the most polluted in the United Kingdom, and virtually undetectable levels of birds feeding in the Wash.

The findings contradicted the original views of the water authority and Associated Ocel, manufacturers of lead additives for petrol at Ellesmere Port.

A statement agreed by them on November 21 said that no tetra-alkyl lead, the compound under suspicion, had been found in their study of bird tissues.

By last week there was a complete reversal by the company and the water authority. A new statement said levels of lead higher than normal in tissues and also in the principal food of the birds had been found.

Much of the lead was present as tri-alkyl lead, which may have arisen from the production or use of lead anti-knock compounds or from activities associated with disposal of canal dredgings.

The statement says extensive investigations have not disclosed any accidents, either within the company's works or at adjacent oil refineries that use their product, which could result in additional discharges of tetra-alkyl lead, but such an occurrence cannot be ruled out entirely.

It says that the Ellesmere Port factory was commissioned in 1954 and extensions were carried out in 1972. Extensive treatment has been used and in recent years £700,000 spent on new plant.

As a consequence lead levels in the discharge have been reduced appreciably.

Grants help to put art into public places

By Kenneth Gosling
Arts Reporter

The Arts Council's scheme to promote art in public places, launched 18 months ago, has proved so successful that £40,000 has been committed from next year's budget to help that the figure will reach £200,000.

The idea is to encourage companies and organisations in both the public and private sectors to commission works of art to incorporate into new projects and to brighten up existing buildings; the council is anxious to encourage the idea that the commissioning of a painting or sculpture amounts to only a tiny proportion of total building costs.

The council considers applications for grants towards the cost of the commission or the purchase of works of art for any interior or exterior space that can reasonably be defined as a public area. That can even include a factory if the exterior is visible from, say, a railway line or motorway.

Last year, the terms of grants or promises, the council committed £100,000, which was linked with £220,000 from other sources. Council money did not, however, always generate other funds because local authorities have found it harder to justify such spending.

Projects so far approved and either completed or underway include a £5,000 sculpture for Southwark Cathedral (£1,000 from the Arts Council), a tapestry for Hereford Cathedral worth £1,500, a third of the cash coming from the council's shopping centre commissions by Sainsbury's to which the council has contributed £3,000.

New opera group to start tour in Weymouth

By Martin Huckerby
Arts Reporter

An opera company is to be launched next Monday in the Pavilion Theatre, Weymouth. It is the first date of the inaugural tour of Opera 80, a touring company established by the Arts Council to replace Opera for All.

The scheme attracted criticism from supporters of Opera for All and three other small opera groups which also had their Arts Council subsidy withdrawn.

However, the council believed that groups which rely on a small number of players, or with very small numbers of orchestral players, were no longer the best way to present opera in places where neither theatres nor audiences were large enough for a visit by a full-scale company.

Opera 80 has an orchestra of 25 and a team of youthful singers, but there is no chorus. On its first tour it will visit 18 centres all over England.

The company will be presenting two linked productions by Stewart Trooper: Rossini's *The Barber of Seville* and Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. Both will be sung in English.

Nephew loses farm tenancy

From Our Correspondent
In Coventry

A farmer had no right to continue staying at a farm after his uncle's death because he was not a "child of the family", a land tribunal has ruled. The uncle did not marry and had no children, and the nephew had no legal right to the tenancy.

Mr Thomas Berridge, aged 52, a farmer, who is married with a daughter, of Arbury Lane, Farm, Griff Lane, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, has been asked to leave his farm.

He said yesterday: "It is quite farcical and a real tragedy. But he is hoping that his solicitor can find a way to allow him to continue running

Seamen's union plans to 'black' cruise liner

From Our Correspondent
Liverpool

The Greek-owned 12,000-ton cruise liner, La Perla, is being "black" by the National Union of Seamen.

Local officials of the union say the liner is flying the flag of convenience, enabling the owners to pay the crew low wages. The ban would be lifted only if pay was improved.

The vessel was formally detained by customs after docking early on Saturday at the end of a 600-passenger cruise to North Africa.

The Cruise Club claims that deficiencies in catering and accommodation on a Christmas and New Year cruise were not all rectified, despite assurances from the owners, and intend to claim damages. The owners say they have endeavoured to meet the club's requirements and intend to "counter-claim" for damages.

Meanwhile, a 14-day cruise to the Iberian ports due to start yesterday has been cancelled and the 400 passengers are to get their money back.

French have design for neutron bomb

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Jan 20

A French neutron bomb is in the news again. Mr Yvon Bourges, the Defence Minister, confirmed a few days ago what some French experts have been saying for a long time, that if France decided to go in for these weapons the first of them would become operational in under five years.

He hastened to add that no such decision has yet been taken. But the far-reaching research is being carried out by the Atomic Energy Authority, which has made it possible to establish that French formulae for the new weapon are correct.

WEST EUROPE

Extremists kill four at Bilbao bar in worst attack on civilians since Madrid summer bombings

From Harry Debelius
Madrid, Jan 20

Political extremists launched attacks in three places over the weekend, killing five people, injuring 15 and wrecking the Madrid sales office of British Airways and two other international airlines.

A powerful bomb went off early today in a crowded bar in the Bilbao industrial suburb of Baracaldo, killing four people. The body of one victim was so mutilated that police took most of the day establishing his identity. He was a farmer with six children.

Other victims included a married couple and a middle-aged man. All were customers of the bar.

By late today it was still not clear which faction in the troubled Basque country was responsible for the blast. Basque separatists and extreme right-wingers were both under suspicion because the owner of the bar was a well-known Basque

nationalist, while his establishment was a gathering place for members of the paramilitary Civil Guard.

Only a few hours earlier, in Guetcho, also near Bilbao, a travelling salesman was playing his usual game of cards yesterday with friends in a cafeteria near his home when a young man and woman walked in, pulled out pistols and shot him nine times. He was dead on arrival at hospital.

Informal sources said that the separatist organisation ETA suspected him of being a police informer.

The Baracaldo explosion was the worst, in terms of civilian casualties from political violence, since ETA bombed Madrid's airport and two main railway stations last July, killing five people.

In Madrid, bombs went off at about midnight yesterday at the sales offices of British Airways, Trans World Airlines, and

Swissair, all on the main shopping street, the Gran Via. It was the second terrorist attack on the British Airways and TWA offices here in two months.

A caller told foreign news agencies that the explosives were placed by the Commando for Justice against the Genocide of Armenians.

Two women passerby were injured in the Madrid explosions, and parked cars and buildings were damaged. Police estimated that the charges contained about 21b of plastic explosive each.

Three escapees: Three suspected ETA members escaped from Marazana prison in San Sebastian today, police said.

They said the prisoners, including a woman awaiting trial for alleged connections with ETA, fled after disarming several prison guards at gunpoint and leaving in their uniforms. —AP.

New era in relations after years of ups and downs

France and Algeria friends again

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Jan 20

Relations between France and Algeria have been through spectacular ups and downs since 1962 and the new defunct Evian Treaty, which put an end to the war between them.

Now at last, with the official visit to Paris of Mr Mohamed Sifaoui, the new Algerian Foreign Minister, which ended today, there seems a good chance that they can now be established on an even keel.

One hundred and thirty years of French rule and the closest ties with France could not be wiped out even by a bitter conflict. But as one commentator has remarked, it is precisely because too many links have survived between the two countries that they have so much trouble in understanding one another.

In addition to the run of the mill problems between a former ruler and his colony, their relations are complicated by historical and psychological factors.

President Giscard d'Estaing's state visit to Algeria in 1975 did not live up to the high hopes preceding it. It was followed by a new bout of frictions and misunderstandings, this time over immigration and the Western Sahara.

Last week's attempt of the two countries to put their relations in order, however, appears to have been crowned with success, although both sides were careful to refrain from the kind of excessive official optimism which events have so speedily deflated in the past.

Mr Ben Yahia spoke unequivocally yesterday at the

farewell banquet he gave for his French colleague of a "new and regenerated climate" between France and Algeria and of the "warm and friendly welcome" he had received.

Things had changed, he said, since he arrived in Paris, and for their part the French were also anxious to emphasise that a promising new start has been made. During his visit, the Algerian Foreign Minister, was the object of unusual courtesies and attentions.

He was received by the President for far longer than scheduled. He met the Prime Minister and had several sessions with his French opposite number, who remarked, at that time, that the visit to Paris was a welcome change for the French from his explosive and unpredictable predecessor Mr Abdul

Outstanding problems were not, of course, disposed of in two days of talks, although these were well prepared by the French Foreign Minister's own visits to Algiers last June. Developments in Iran and Afghanistan also helped to create a favourable climate for the meeting.

They have heightened for both countries the attractions of a "multipolar" world, at a time of the threatened relapse into the old style cold war and emphasised the complementary

nature of their interests, in the words of French experts.

France and Algeria together could be a political force to reckon with in the Mediterranean, a sort of anticipation of what the north-south dialogue between Europe and developing countries could achieve one day.

The fact that France, since it ceased to intervene in Mauritania, no longer appears "reactionary" and "neocolonialist" in Algerian eyes; and Algeria, long greatly respected as a revolutionary and pro-Soviet enthusiasm even to the extent of abstaining in the United Nations vote on Afghanistan, helped this meeting of minds.

There remain the practical problems to be solved: Algerian immigration to France, the French trade surplus with Algeria, the transfer by French residents in Algeria of their assets back to this country, and the status of former Algerian members of the French forces and their families living in France.

Immigration is probably the most difficult problem to solve. There are 361,000 Algerian workers, and a total Algerian population of more than 800,000 in France. As part of the measures to alleviate unemployment, the French Government would like to send them back progressively.

Algeria agreed in principle but on a much slower rate. The Algerian trade deficit which is about 3,000m francs (£333m) could, Mr Raymond Barre, the French Prime Minister, assured his visitor, be made up by substantial increases in Algerian gas sales into the French market.

A number of working parties have been set up

21 guns for dead king's homecoming

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Jan 20

The monarch who left Spain under virtual exile in 1945, half a century ago to make way for a republic, received a posthumous 21-gun salute this weekend as his remains arrived home for interment in the ancient monastery-palace of El Escorial, near the city of Madrid, as a goose-stepping guard of honour escorted the coffin through icy streets lined by thousands of spectators and into the basilica where the huge stone monastery for a requiem Mass.

Alfonso XIII left a written request to be buried in the mausoleum inside the monastery which is the last resting place of most of Spain's kings and queens of the past few centuries. The royal family waited until now to have his body disinterred in order to make sure that the country's new constitutional monarchy is here to stay.

Don Juan, son of the exiled monarch, accompanied his father's body from the time it left Rome in the Spanish frigate until it arrived at the monastery. It was taken to the El Escorial by helicopter.

Dutch synod divided over Rome compromise plan

From Peter Nichols
Rome, Jan 20

The second week of the special synod of the Dutch Catholic Church here opens after the Roman Curia has accepted a specific proposal to deal with the internal quarrels of the bishops' conference and the difficulties in relations with Rome.

The proposal put forward by the Vatican is said to envisage a series of compromises, such as the idea apparently met with little favour from the bishops identified as progressive.

They saw it as meaning the addition of three bishops acceptable to Rome in place of the progressive wing of the Dutch church has four bishops, the conservatives have two and Cardinal Willebrands, the Primate, holds the middle ground.

The synod, which is the first of its kind since the return of Cardinal Willebrands to the Vatican, is ever more urgent in our times as the Church can carry out its mission more efficiently and give testimony of faith to the Lord.

The Pope told a crowd in St Peter's Square. —UPL

Terrorist bomb blasts police station in Rome

From Our Own Correspondent
Rome, Jan 20

Attacked by terrorists, exploded early yesterday morning and destroyed two floors of a Rome police station, injuring 10 policemen.

The bomb was reported to have contained about 71b of high explosive and some neighbouring buildings, including a petrol station, were damaged.

About 40 policemen, some of them members of the special political branch, were asleep when the bomb exploded.

In a recent article in the *Revue de la Defense Nationale*, Colonel Guy Lewin, an adviser to the Defence Minister, wrote that "the value of the neutron bomb as a means of improving our combat forces is not questionable; but this weapon could only be used in the framework of deterrents based on an anti-city strategy."

The decision on the neutron bomb will be taken before next summer. Meanwhile, modernization of the existing French deterrent is being ahead.

Vatican tests prove 'Murillo' painting a fake

From Our Own Correspondent
Rome, Jan 20

A series of scientific tests in the Vatican's laboratories confirms an opinion put forward some 20 years ago that a painting of the Madonna presented to Pius IX by Queen Isabel II of Spain in 1855 is not by Murillo but a fake.

The painting was removed in 1959 from the public galleries and placed in the Vatican storerooms. Tests show that the fake was done in the early years of the nineteenth century. Murillo died in 1682.

OVERSEAS

Mr Nkomo seen as the unifying politician

From Nicholas Ashford
Bulawayo, Jan 20

Mr Joshua Nkomo, leader of the Patriotic Front (formerly Zapu) returned to the heart of Matabeleland today to a welcome as large and even more enthusiastic than when he returned to Salisbury from abroad a week ago.

It was predictable that his supporters should have turned out in such large numbers. Mr Nkomo has traditionally enjoyed the almost undivided support of the Matabele who inhabit the huge areas of bush and savannah to the north and south of Bulawayo.

What is significant, however, is that he should have waited a week before returning in triumph to what is widely regarded as his "home town" and that he intends to spend only a minimal amount of time in Matabeleland during the election campaign.

The reasons for this are twofold. First, he is confident of winning the majority of Matabele votes without having to campaign for them; second, he is trying to project himself as a "national leader" and not a sectional or ethnic one.

This means winning over the support of the Shona-speaking majority who tend to regard the one million tough and disciplined Matabele with a mixture of fear and resentment.

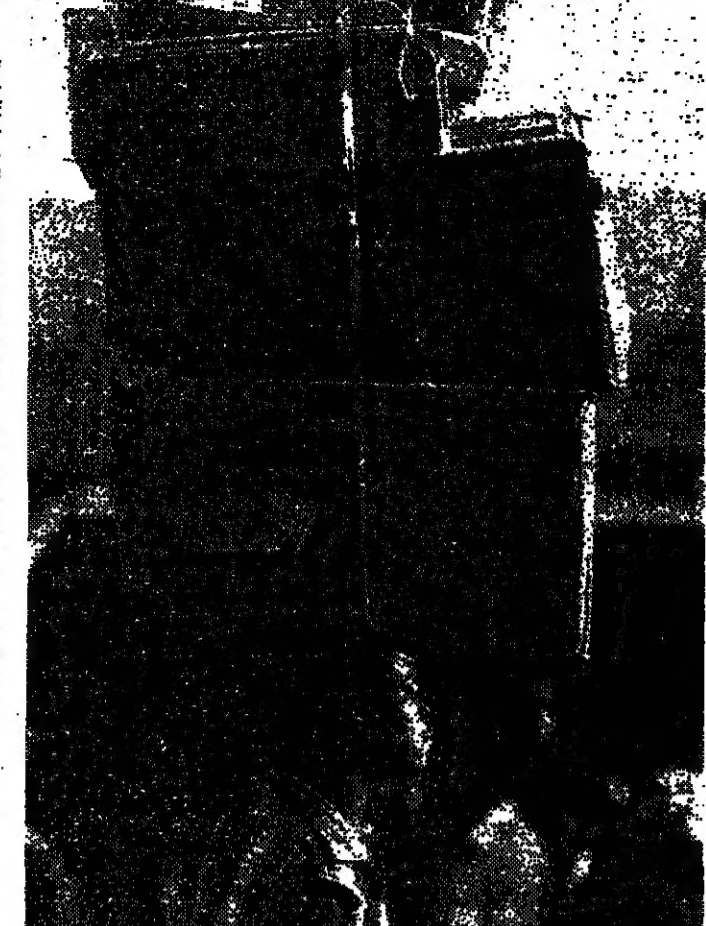
It is wrong to regard Mr Nkomo as being just a Matabele leader. Mr Vota Moyo says: "He is the appropriately named Patriotic Front representative in Matabeleland. He is the only leader who is really trying to bring the Matabele and Shonas together. If you look at the party's national executive with well over 100 members, Shonas outnumber Matabele 10 to 1."

However much Mr Nkomo may try to project himself as a leader who transcends tribal barriers, there is little doubt that much of the voting in next month's election will take place along ethnic lines, and that the Matabele will vote solidly for the Patriotic Front.

"The Matabele are used to a strong unitary tribal system and will vote for whoever they feel represents their interests," Mr Washington Sanyale, a Bulawayo lawyer, says. "I would estimate that 90 per cent of Matabele will vote for him."

Other Matabele politicians such as Ernest Bule (of the UANC), Enos Nkomo (of the UANC), and Enos Nkomo (of the UANC), both of Zanu, PF) have no real following here. However, the important question is, how will the Shonas vote?

It is estimated that at least half of Bulawayo's black population are Shonas. Many have lived here for years and some have intermarried with Matabele. Others, however, are



Photograph by Brian Harris

Taking home the shopping, Salisbury style.

resentful of the Matabele who, they feel, are given preference when it comes to employment or housing.

In last April's election most Shonas voted for Bishop Abel Muzorewa's United African National Council (UANC) which took six of the 15 seats in Matabeleland.

The United National Federal Party (UNFP) of Chief Kayis Ndaweni won seven seats, partly by posing as a surrogate for Mr Nkomo's Zapu, but also by capturing the votes of Bulawayo's 50,000 whites who regarded the UNFP as the most conservative and least threatening of the black parties taking part. This time the whites will not be voting for black candidates. Two other seats were taken by a senior Zanu (PF) representative who was released from detention by Bishop Muzorewa in December.

He was unable to fulfil any of the promises he gave. He promised to end the war, but the war got worse. His greatest blunder was his association with acts of aggression against Zimbabweans living in neighbouring states. People will not forget that very easily."

Africans who have observed the Bulawayo political scene

Booming South Africa looks to Britain for skilled workers

From Eric Marsden
Johannesburg, Jan 20

With its economy beginning to boom because of the soaring price of gold, South Africa is seeking skilled immigrants to fill the expected flood of jobs in industry. It is mounting a drive to recruit, which is believed to be paying particular attention to Britain.

South African Government officials in London have reported that they expect increased interest in immigration, especially among the workers in Britain's troubled steel and car industries.

The new policy was announced by Mr Alwyn Schlebusch, the Minister of the Interior, who said there was a shortage of artisans in all sectors of the economy. It has been decided to ease restrictions on overseas recruiting and give help to employers seeking workers abroad.

Artisans would be allowed to come even without firm job offers, which is a reversal of present policy. Immigration procedures would be streamlined and an advertising campaign mounted. It is also expected that there will soon be an increase in the state contribution to workers' travel costs, which is now 275 rand (about £150).

There may be some protests from black leaders over the influx of foreign workers when unemployment is nearing the one million mark, but economists emphasize that the influx of more skilled workers will reduce rather than increase black unemployment.

They insist that the recruiting campaigns are not aimed at filling jobs that South African workers can do. The shortage of artisans is causing bottlenecks in the economy which are denying work to many thousands who are unskilled.

Restrictions on recruiting of skilled workers were imposed in 1976 after the Soweto riots. Immigration had fallen to a time from an average of 6,000 a month to about 1,000, which barely covered the numbers leaving the country.

It has remained low for the past three years, although since early 1975 it has been boosted by the influx of whites leaving Rhodesia.

Mr Schlebusch said the Government had already relaxed most of the 1976 restrictions, and had acted to eliminate the long delays in granting applications for permanent residence. Selection procedures would remain strict; recruiting missions would have to ensure that applicants were "not merely skilled but generally acceptable as settlers."

The minister drew attention to the hundreds of advertisements in the press for every conceivable trade and profession.

The Johannesburg *Sunday Times*, in which Mr Schlebusch gave an interview today carried several pages of advertisements for electrical and mechanical engineers, motor mechanics, pipe fitters, among many other skilled jobs. There is also a shortage of middle-range executives and qualified secretarial staff.

Dr Errol Drummond, director of the Steel and Engineering Industries' Federation, says there is a significant shortage

of skilled and semi-skilled workers in this sector and predicts that the need for journeymen will run into thousands.

Shortages of skilled labour are also holding up building projects, but it has not yet been decided whether to lift the restrictions on building artisans.

South Africa's boom, coming at a time when most Western economies are facing recession, is based almost entirely on increased gold earnings. It is estimated that last year gold brought in nearly \$6,000m (£2,650m), a sum more than enough to cover the cost of South Africa's arms imports and the oil it had to buy on the open market.

This year earnings may be considerably higher, depending on how long the current gold mania lasts.

Financial experts here believe it will continue for some time because of international political tension, and that the price will reach \$1,000 an ounce before the trend is reversed. Even if there is then a heavy drop, there will be no serious adverse effect for South Africa unless it drops below \$400.

Mr Owen Horwood, the Finance Minister, has predicted further tax "reforms" in his March budget. Last year, when gold had barely begun its climb, he was able to cut personal and company tax, increase subsidies and pensions for all races.

A survey by Senbank, the central merchant bank, to be published tomorrow, predicts that the South African exports will be adversely affected by the trade recession among its trading partners, this will not be felt until 1981.

Many South African blacks, both urban and rural, are under attack because of Government apartheid policy, poverty and lack of knowledge about which foods to eat, the Financial Mail weekly newspaper said today.

It said that race-related malnutrition existing alongside the wealth of South Africa's white community was contributing to political tension.

Research done in 1976 showed that 43 per cent of households in Soweto African township near Johannesburg were living below the poverty line, defined as the minimum revenue on which a family can meet basic needs. That figure now is 172 rand (£95) a month.

According to Mr Edward Batson, a leading researcher on poverty in South Africa, a black household is able to buy a balanced diet only when its

income is 50 per cent over the poverty line. Seven out of 10 children admitted to the pediatric wards at one Soweto hospital suffer from malnutrition, the Financial Mail said.

Results of a survey by the newspaper showed that the average income of black families in the Ngutu district of Zululand in Natal Province, was 20 rand (£11) a month.

It said that Government resettlement programmes to establish ethnic enclaves exacerbated matters; blacks were relocated to remote, often arid areas.

"What makes the pangas worse is the unpalatable fact that starvation in South Africa is closely related to race, and moreover, exists cheek by jowl with immense wealth. Starvation is thus a racial injustice which feeds a sense of grievance in a politically tense situation," the Financial Mail said.

—Agence France-Press.

مكتبة الأحياء

AFGHANISTAN/IRAN

Taraki and Amin regimes mutilated children and butchered parents to quell Muslim rebellion

Why the Russian invaders are wearing an air of injured innocence

From Ian Murray
Islamabad, Jan 20

The Afghan refugees and rebels in Pakistan all seem to have a horror story to tell. This is one of the worst.

A small village, just to the north-east of Kabul, had been the scene of a massacre. Mr. Nur Mohammad Taraki, He and his Prime Minister, Mr. Hafizullah Amin, decided to make an example of it. One August morning the Afghan army was sent in to destroy it.

While the soldiers started pulling down and burning the houses, 13 children were rounded up and stood in a line in front of their parents. Some of the soldiers then poked out the children's eyes with steel rods. The mutilated children were then slowly strangled to death.

Next it was the parents' turn and one by one they were shot, as was everybody in the village. The bodies, along with everything else, were burnt. The entire site was an ash-strewn scar.

Ayatollah offers a compromise

Tehran, Jan 20.—The Ayatollah Khomeini, faced by a boycott of Friday's presidential election by minorities living in Iran's border regions, today made a gesture of conciliation towards the Sunni Moslem populations.

An announcement from his office in the holy city of Qom, said the Ayatollah was prepared to see an amendment to the Islamic constitution to allow orthodox Sunnis to have their own courts and tribunals in regions where they predominate over members of the Shia sect.

The decision by Iran's constitutional council of experts to make the form of Islam practised by the majority Shia sect the state religion, while neglecting Sunni minority rights, has been an issue among the Kurds, Turkomen and Baluchi minorities.

Package deal: Mr. Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, said today in Delhi that a "package" formula for the release of the American hostages being held in Iran, United States Embassy in Tehran was worked out during his recent visit to Tehran.

Russians rebuke 'bellicose' President Carter

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, Jan 20

The Russians said this week-end that ever since taking office, President Carter has been moving towards a policy of confrontation and force as the decisive argument in world affairs.

A bitterly anti-American article in *Pravda*, reflecting the views of the Soviet leadership, accused President Carter of striving to impose "bellicose confrontation" on the world, placing American interests against those of other countries, and seeking his own advantage in the disadvantage of others.

Pravda said the keystone of Mr. Carter's programme was an unprecedented build-up of military might on which to rely for the settlement of world affairs. References to the growth of Soviet military power were made only for the sake of appearances.

The article reassured that the Russians saved Afghanistan from collapse. *Pravda* named two ships, which it said arrived in Karachi in June from Britain and China loaded with arms. These weapons were taken to Peshawar and distributed to the rebels. The operation was masterminded by a Central Intelligence Agency representative named as Louis Duprix.

Double glaze in 12 minutes

Yes, that's the claim made by a famous manufacturer for his new sliding system.

Recently this new system was tested against a leading DIY brand with amazing results. The new system took just 12 minutes to double glaze a window and the DIY brand took 24 hours!

The reason is very simple. The new system is not a kit, although you install it yourself (and so save labour costs). Your windows are measured by experts. Then the panels are factory made to measure and delivered ready glaze for you to install. What could be simpler than that? And it does not matter if your reveal is out of true; it still fits snugly and the panels glide easily with no extra work or packing.

The name of this manufacturer is Critical Warmite. The name of the new system is New Budget Warmite. It does everything good double glazing does: holds in the warmth, reduces draughts and noise (deterring burglars, too) and cuts fuel bills. What's more it can cost less than kits that leave you to do all the work yourself. Of course, if you think DIY double glazing, even this Critical Warmite installation service will be happy to install it for you.

Find out more about Britain's really speedy low-cost way to double glaze.

Fill in coupon on page 6.

the entire site was an ash-strewn scar.

There are other stories, like the one of 200 men, tied up with their own urban clothes, pushed over, doused in petrol and then incinerated. There seems little reason to doubt from the stories that thousands of Afghans of all ages were dying.

Mr. Taraki and Mr. Amin, the strong-arm man who toppled him from power in September, had apparently resorted to this type of brutal operation in an attempt to quell the Muslim rebellion that had been steadily spreading ever since Mr. Taraki first seized office in April, 1978.

In trying to rule by fear both men clearly totally missed the character of their countrymen. Despite, almost because of, what was going on the revolt spread so that by last autumn 22 of the country's 25 provinces were effectively in rebel hands.

Mr. Amin took over because he believed Mr. Taraki was too soft. Refugee stories point to the fact that things became much worse after he came to power. On October 21, with the help

of the 3,000 Soviet "military advisers" and pilots then in the country, he opened a full scale offensive against the rebels.

Helicopter gunships went in and started strafing villages. Napalm bombing was used with devastating effect. Refugees, who until then had only been trickling into Pakistan, started to flood over the border.

But the rebel determination seemed to increase in the face of this assault and it now seems clear that in Moscow it was realized that Mr. Amin was so universally unpopular and incompetent that he could well be removed before long and replaced by a Muslim inspired regime.

So the Soviet decision to move into Afghanistan was taken.

The hope was that any regime which succeeded in getting rid of the hated Mr. Amin would be a popular one. From the start the Russians envisaged the role of their troops as nothing more than a strong logistical backup force while their new puppet leader, Mr. Babrak Karmal, consolidated his position.

The Soviet presence seems to have stopped the atrocities which happened under Mr. Amin. The horror stories all seem to predate Christmas and there is no recent evidence of Napalm being used against civilians.

The fact that the Soviet invasion has apparently put an end to the worst atrocities of the previous regimes explains in no small measure the air of injured innocence adopted by Kremlin leaders and Russian soldiers alike when they are accused of trampling on a nation's rights.

The Kremlin might really have calculated that it could have fooled the rest of the world into accepting its version of things simply because Soviet troops really were stopping a cruel war against a civilian population.

But if the Kremlin miscalculated the world's reaction it undoubtedly miscalculated the reaction of the Afghan population. Rebel opposition to Mr. Amin was generally along traditional clan and tribal lines, although six different groupings had started to emerge.

With the arrival of the Soviet troops all the old tribal differences seem to have been swept under the carpet. The fighting Mujahideen may still retain their old loyalties. But, for the moment, they are seemingly totally united in their determination to throw the last Russian out of their country.

The war is thus continuing. But, with the Russians showing cautious restraint and the rebels wary of taking on armoured gunships with 303 rifles, the action seems to be sporadic and confined to hit-and-run ambushes.

These tactics disrupt communications to some extent, but there is no evidence that the Soviet troops have ever been in real difficulty in securing a road or town if they wanted to. In fact, they are still able to rely on the Afghan Army to do most of the real fighting for them. This is because these soldiers are deliberately based in a different area to the one where they have their ethnic roots.

Where the Mujahideen are most successful is in the remote

and mountainous areas, and that means most of the country. But these are areas which have never really been effectively controlled from Kabul.

For the moment, the real state of the rebellion is almost impossible to assess. The different groups make wildly exaggerated claims of their victories to impress each other.

There are only three obvious outcomes of the war. The first is that the Mujahideen with their scattered rifles will defeat the largest army in the world. Realistically that must be a non-starter. The second is that the largest army in the world will crush a fighting spirit, fired by Islam and financed by anti-Soviet money. Realistically that cannot be achieved through genocide.

The only other apparent possibility is a continuation of the present military stalemate in the country, while diplomatic and Islamic pressures are applied to the Soviet Union. Such pressures take time to build up and the Soviet gamble is that as time passes, Mr. Karmal will acquire internal and international respectability.

China says it will support the Afghan struggle

From Hasan Akhtar
Islamabad, Jan 20

China will support the Afghan struggle against the Soviet intervention and believes the Afghan people will ultimately succeed, Mr. Huang Hua, the Chinese Foreign Minister, told Afghan refugee leaders in a Pakistan camp near Peshawar today.

Mr. Huang Hua is the second foreign leader in the past five days to visit the Afghan refugees, whose number in North West Frontier Province may be as high as 445,000.

Lord Carrington, the British Foreign Secretary, had also visited the refugee camp near Peshawar last week. However, unlike Lord Carrington, Mr. Huang Hua spoke to the Afghan refugees and extended Chinese support in their struggle against the Soviet occupation.

The Chinese minister told his Pathan audience through an interpreter that China stood with the people of Afghanistan as justice was on their side. The free world, he declared, would never allow intervention in Afghanistan to become legitimate.

The Chinese minister, who is in Islamabad for talks with Pakistan's civil and military leaders on Afghanistan developments, said the Soviet Union planned to carry out incursions in the areas adjacent to Afghanistan. That was a great danger not only to the Afghan people but to the security and peace of the whole region.

He and his wife went round the Afghan refugee camp at Asakhel, about 14 miles from Peshawar, expressing sympathy and promising Chinese relief.

Mr. Huang Hua was to hold talks with President Ziaul-Haq at Rawalpindi later this evening.

At the first meeting of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, with the Afghan people, she expressed her sympathy for the Afghan people and their struggle for freedom.

Members spoke briefly about the Russian intervention in Afghanistan and the supply of American arms to Pakistan. But they avoided mentioning the blame, though they implied that the Russians had "acted first" (Kulbir Nayar writes from Delhi).

Mrs. Gandhi is reported as having rebutted the assertion that India's stand was "pro-Soviet". She said: "We are neither pro-Soviet, nor pro-American. We are only pro-Indian." She told the opposition leaders that India did not want the situation in Afghanistan to escalate "from cold war into a hot war".

The Prime Minister said that one should not talk of foreign intervention in a neighbouring country only from a particular point of time. Intervention by powers other than the Soviet Union could not be lost sight of. When a longer discussion was sought, Mrs. Gandhi said, Parliament was the forum for it.

Later, at a banquet for Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, the Indian Foreign Minister, said that resistance and non-alignment in the region could only aggravate the situation, as past experience had shown. Non-aligned countries could live in peace if there was no interference of outside powers, he said.



East meets West: A mullah taking photographs during prayers at Tehran University.

Russian troops killed as convoy is ambushed in Afghan mountains

Continued from page 1

He pulled his rifle from the back of the cab and laid it between us on the seat. "You watch right of road," he said. "Tell if you see people." I did as I was told, as much for my protection as for his.

At the bottom of the pass, we caught up with the soldier's convoy and Major Yuri, his khaki trousers tucked into heavy army boots, appeared at the window.

"You are English," he said with a smile. "Come to the front with me." So we trekked through the deep snow to the front of the column where a Soviet tank was trying to manoeuvre up the pass in the opposite direction.

"It's a T-62," he said. I thought it prudent not to tell him that I had already recognized the tank's classification. Major Yuri seemed a fine professional soldier of whom President Brezhnev should be proud. He was clearly admired by his men who spoke freely to him in a way that most privates might find impossible in western armies.

In emergency, he was calm and efficient and when dealing with fractious Afghan soldiers, whom he privately seemed to distrust, he was unfailingly courteous and polite.

When five Afghan soldiers turned up beside the convoy to complain that Russian troops had been waving rifles in their direction, Major Yuri spoke to them as an equal, taking off his gloves and by the time he had finished, the Russian tank was also a party man.

What, he asked, did I as a journalist think of Mrs. Thatcher? I explained that people in Britain held different views about the Prime Minister but that they were permitted to hold these views freely. What

did Major Yuri think about President Brezhnev? "I believe," he said slowly, "that Comrade Brezhnev is a very good man."

Major Yuri was well read. He knew his Tolstoy and admired the music of Shostakovich. But when I asked if he had read Solzhenitsyn, he shook his head and tapped his revolver holster. "That," he said, touching the gun, "is for Solzhenitsyn."

Every few minutes, Major Yuri would pace the road and talk over the radio telephone and when eventually we did move away with our armoured escorts scattered through the column, he seemed unsure of our exact location.

Could he, he asked, borrow my map? It was suddenly apparent that the long convoy, with its cargo of food, ammunition and supplies, did not carry with it a map of Afghanistan.

As we journeyed on into the night, I was gently handed a Kalashnikov rifle with a full clip of ammunition. A soldier snapped off the safety catch and told me to watch through the window.

I had no desire to shoot at Afghan rebels but if we had been attacked I do not doubt that self-preservation would have governed my reactions.

We were still skidding along the main road towards Kabul when I turned to Major Yuri who was sitting on my right.

"Why is the Soviet Army in Afghanistan?" I asked him. Major Yuri remained silent for a long time, a smile playing about his face. If you read *Pravda*, he said, "you will find that Comrade Leonid Brezhnev has answered this question." Major Yuri was a party man to the last.

Crisis may put pressure on Navy

By Henry Stanhope

Defence Correspondent

Any deepening of the crises affecting Afghanistan, Iran and now Yugoslavia could lead to pressure upon the Royal Navy to advance the deployment of a second task group to the area, at present planned for early May.

The Navy has already switched a frigate squadron, and the assault ship *Intrepid* to the Mediterranean in response to the developments in Eastern Europe and the Gulf.

The second task group has long been planned under the Navy's programme of regular nine-month deployments east of Suez. It will consist of a County Class guided missile destroyer and four frigates together with supply ships of which are scheduled to exercise in the Indian Ocean area in the Far East.

Ocean submarine has been included because nuclear-powered boats are not allowed through the Suez Canal, while conventional diesel-electric submarines could not keep pace with the fast moving surface warships.

Government pressure to bring forward the group's departure could, however, create problems for the Navy, which is hardly in an ideal position these days to cope with the unforeseen.

Sources point out that in a national emergency the Navy could quickly send most of its 100 or so Nato warships and submarines to sea.

But manpower shortages, resulting from the recent period of service discontent over pay and conditions, and frustrating delays in the repair and maintenance programme, are making things hard for senior officers at the fleet's operational headquarters in Northwood, Middlesex.

On the one hand the Navy is trying to make life more attractive for its sailors with 200 foreign visits planned for this year compared with only 120 the previous year.

On the other hand it needs to keep about half of its strength on shore in peacetime, partly to maintain training establishments and partly to keep family separation down to an acceptable level.

Any sudden change in plans could upset wives, who have to be assiduously courted by an all-volunteer force, and such changes have already become too common for comfort during the last year. This has been the fault, not so much of Ayatollah Khomeini as of strained relations in naval dockyards. Disputes over pay and steady defections by skilled workers to private industry have led to the Navy's refitting schedules falling badly behind schedule.

A senior officer said that the situation was still "extremely serious" with the nuclear-powered attack submarine *Swiftsure* still in Devonport awaiting its refit for nearly a year, and even *Retown*, one of the Navy's four-bolt Polaris force, delayed by six weeks at Rosyth—the first time that the efficiency of Britain's strategic deterrent has been so affected.

Moreover, five frigates, as announced last June, have had to be placed in the Navy's standby squadron because of manpower shortages.

Candidates and press gather to see Iowa winnow out the weak

From Patrick Brogan
Grinnell, Iowa, Jan 20

Iowa has now replaced New Hampshire as the state where the first cuckoo of an American election year may be heard. Democrats and Republicans will gather in 5,062 precincts throughout the state tomorrow evening and begin the business of choosing delegates to state party conventions.

In the process they will indicate, perhaps clearly, who they think should be sworn in as president a year from now. If there is a clear winner on either side, he will stand a much better chance of winning his party's nomination.

This was the role that New Hampshire used to play. The weak were winnowed out. Candidates who did badly began the rapid slide to oblivion. The winners went on to victory.

Last time, of course, the Democratic victor was Jimmy Carter. He was in Iowa, practically by stealth, while no one was looking and, the "moment" he picked up took him to the White House.

This time all the candidates are here, all except Mr. Carter, who is minding the shop in Washington. They have bled the state with their sons and mothers, their sisters, cousins and aunts. In their wake has come a regiment of reporters and several armoured divisions of television technicians.

The people here have had ample opportunity to judge between the candidates. They enjoy it, no doubt about that. The pleasure of being the nation's cynosure, which reconciled New Hampshire to the neglect of other seasons, works as well in the Mid-West.

They might even turn out to vote tomorrow night. Four years ago, less than 10 per cent of Democrats and barely 5 per cent of Republicans attended the caucuses. This time the figures will be much higher.

A few predictions are already possible. Senator Robert Dole's presidential campaign is going to end here. He was the Republican nominee for the vice presidency in 1976. He seems to have failed completely here and had better concentrate on saving his Senate seat in Kansas.

Until a week ago he practically ignored Iowa, taking it for granted that he would win, and crowing that the Iowa caucuses will not select any delegates to the national convention anyway. He stayed above the battle, while the others were down in the arena, building up organizations and addressing the faithful or passively faithful, across the state.

Worst of all, he skipped a televised debate between Republican candidates which was held three weeks ago. Iowans felt that they were being ignored and resented it. It is also possible that as polling day approaches, the idea of voting for a man who will be 69 next month appears less appealing.

The middle-of-the-road Republican candidates, Senator Baker

and Mr. Bush, have picked up the votes shed by Mr. Reagan to their right.

Mr. Connally, despite an immense effort of personal campaigning in the past two weeks, does not seem to have succeeded in overcoming his reputation for shooting from the hip. Mid-Westerners believe that their president should stop to think before blasting away at his opponents.

Mr. Bush has worked hardest in Iowa, visiting it repeatedly over the past two years, building up an organization and preaching his mild doctrine of conservatism and proven competence to every town and village in the state.

Senator Baker left his campaign until practically the last minute, and has no organization worthy of the name. If he does well it will be thanks to his personal efforts, and to support from Mr. Robert Ray, the Republican Governor of Missouri.

Mr. Baker came to Grinnell on Friday evening, and had the largest turnout for Republicans that anyone could remember. He has been campaigning ceaselessly since before Christmas and looked fit, relaxed and happy.

He conducts his meetings in the old Southern style (he comes from Tennessee, telling well-practised jokes and anecdotes to cheer everyone up before making his pitch).

Mr. Philip Crane, on the far right of the Republican Party, and Mr. Jerry Brown, on the far west of the Democratic Party, will do badly. Mr. Crane might survive as the Republican right hand, but Mr. Ronald Reagan drops out soon, but not otherwise.

Mr. Brown has instructed his followers, if any, to vote for "uncommitted" delegates. Delegates are shared out proportionally among these Democratic candidates who get more than 15 per cent of the vote, so Mr. Brown's decision is an admission of defeat. He swears that he will live to fight another day.

Mr. John Anderson, the most liberal of the Republican candidates, has not campaigned here, and will make his big push to New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

That leaves, on the Democratic side, President Carter and Senator Edward Kennedy and on the Republican side, Senator Howard Baker, Mr. George Bush, Mr. John Connally and Mr. Reagan. Mr. Carter is going to win the Democratic vote, but Mr. Kennedy will not be eliminated.

There is now a really good chance that Mr. Reagan might be beaten. He lived in Iowa before moving to film and fortune in California. At Christmas the polls gave him over 50 per cent of the Republican vote. Ten days ago he had lost all of them.

The feeling now is that Mr. Reagan and Mr. Bush are now all bunched together, and if Mr. Reagan is forced into second place, his campaign may never recover.

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OVERSEAS

Anti-Russian feeling likely to rise in Japan after general is accused of being Soviet spy

From Our Correspondent Tokyo, Jan 20

The disclosure that a retired General of the Japanese Self-Defence Force is alleged to have led an espionage team for the Soviet Union has brought fears of an increase in anti-Russian feeling and of rightist movements gaining strength and pressing for anti-espionage laws.

The latter would have particular reference to American military secrets now available to Japan under their security treaty.

Major-General Yukihisa Miyazawa, aged 58, and two of his suspected accomplices were arrested on Friday by security agents of the Tokyo police.

They are accused of having made "highly sensitive military secrets" available to Soviet agents in Japan for more than 10 years.



Mr. Ohira: Cautious about anti-espionage laws.

Confiscated material included code books and other classified documents which, according to sources in the Defence Force, were not supposed to be in the possession of the general or the two men. The general's Russian contact is believed by the sources to have been Colonel Yuri Kozlov, senior military attaché at the Soviet Embassy in Tokyo.

He left Japan for Moscow yesterday but Soviet officials denied any connection between his departure and the case, and rejected Foreign Ministry requests to see him.

General Miyazawa is suspected of having supplied the Russians with information on the deployment and strength of Japanese ground forces in Hokkaido, a major military concentration, the deployment and strength of American forces in Japan, estimated at 45,000 men mostly

stationed in Okinawa; and details of the military arrangements between Japan and the United States.

He is also suspected of providing details on the strength of the United States weapons system in Korea, military intelligence on China, and the extent of Japan's knowledge on Russian intelligence operations.

The general was said to be "evidently" most qualified and "competent" agent to provide such information.

He graduated from the elite military academy of the former Imperial Japanese Army (he was an artillery captain at the end of the Second World War) and was fluent in Russian.

Since joining the Self-Defence Force, he served in intelligence sections dealing with the Soviet Union for most of his service, being Deputy Superintendent of the Intelligence Training School before his retirement in 1974.

His "deputies" during the last days of his alleged espionage activities were a lieutenant and a warrant officer who were both engaged in intelligence operations involving the Soviet Union.

The general is said to have collected 100,000 yen (about £190) for each passage of information and made several million yen during his employment as a Russian agent.

Observers point to the considerable gravity of the situation. Never, for instance, has a general been implicated in an espionage case either before or after the last war. This, they say, could intensify the anti-Russian feeling in Japan which has been rising since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Even though Japan is not supposed to have any military secrets under the constitutional renunciation of war, rightists, including a number of conservative party politicians, have long demanded anti-espionage laws to defend the United States-Japan Security Treaty.

Japan, traditionally anti-Russian, also has a tradition which condemns espionage as the most shameful crime.

Mr. Miyazawa's Ohira, the Prime Minister who was touring the Pacific area, said in Sydney yesterday that while he was "greatly shocked" he was cautious about anti-espionage laws, wondering whether the present law governing the conduct of public officials might not cover espionage offences.

In the meantime, the resignation of certain officials including Mr. Enji Kubota, the Defence Agency Director-General, and General Shigetaka Nagano, Chief of Staff for the Ground Force, is said to be a "foregone conclusion".

British minister recognizes Seato pact obligations

From Neil Kelly Bangkok, Jan 20

No Government had suggested the revival of the Seato (South-east Asian Treaty Organization) the defunct military alliance, Mr. Peter Blaker, Minister of State, at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, told a press conference today at the end of a six-day visit to Thailand.

The Manila pact, which had created Seato, still existed, Mr. Blaker said, and he had told the Thai Government that Britain recognized its obligations under the pact.

The obligation, he said, was for signatories to consult in the event of an attack or threat of attack on a member of the pact.

No one had said such a threat to Thailand existed at present. He described the danger to Thailand as a threat of instability resulting from Vietnam's behaviour in occupying Kampuchea. He had discussed the Manila pact with Thai ministers, but there had been no mention of the possibility of Britain sending forces to Thailand if it should be attacked by Vietnam.

He had assured the Thai Government of continuing British political support and aid in dealing with the heavy burden of refugees and other problems on the border with Kampuchea. Britain would continue to support Thailand, in particular Scorpion tanks, but the sale of new types of arms had not arisen in the talks.

A political solution to the Kampuchean question could be found, he said, only with the withdrawal of Vietnamese

forces. The Kampuchean people had shown they did not wish to be Vietnam's puppets. Concerned pressure through the United Nations and by other means to show Vietnam that world opinion would not accept the continued occupation of Kampuchea could force a withdrawal.

Mr. Blaker said his visit had shown Thailand it had dependable friends outside the Association of South-east Asian (Asean) nations. "My aim is to deepen and broaden our excellent relations with Thailand," he said.

In a reference to the refugee problem, Mr. Blaker said because of Britain's paramount obligation to take Indo-China refugees from Hong Kong it could accept from Thailand only refugees with close family relations already in Britain.

Meanwhile the Thai Foreign Ministry has issued its strongest official warning to foreign journalists against "presenting news contradictory to facts and damaging to the image of Thailand".

A spokesman named three American correspondents, including Mr. Henry Kamm of The New York Times, and claimed that they had been guilty of those offences. He said the position of the Thai Government would be "greatly improved" if the would-be Pulitzer Prize winner for his reports on Indo-China refugees.

Another American correspondent was given six months "to press himself, failing which he must leave the country".

Chemical threat to Los Angeles

From Ivor Davies Los Angeles, Jan 20

A team of inspectors from the Los Angeles Department of Water will start testing tap water in the city tomorrow after the weekend's announcement that traces of trichloroethylene (TCE), a chemical suspected of causing cancer, had been found in three wells. Two of the wells had been closed.

However, because of a manpower shortage, samples from only 20 homes a day can be tested. Private water companies will also run tests.

Friday's announcement came shortly after the closure of more than 30 wells serving nearly 500,000 people in the dormitory communities of Los Angeles, which have been shut down in the past few weeks because of the chemical.

Mr. Paul Lane, chief engineer of the Department of Water, said that the wells were closed as a precaution after the TCE levels of 10 and 13 parts per billion were discovered. One well closed had 600 parts per billion. The federal Environmental Protection Agency has set a limit of five parts per billion of TCE in drinking water.

Mr. Lane said the TCE levels would be tested, however, did not go directly to customers, but was mixed with millions of gallons of water brought to Los Angeles from northern California and Colorado.

SPORT

Cricket

Breareley almost swings it England's way

From John Woodcock Cricket Correspondent Melbourne, Jan 20

By winning a thrilling game of one-day cricket by two runs here this evening West Indies took the lead over England in the three-leg final of the Benson and Hedges World Series Cup.

West Indies scored 215 for eight to beat Breareley's England to 197 at the last ball of the match. Holding for four, which, with nine men on the boundary, he not surprisingly failed to do.

There was disappointment in London but it seemed hardly to matter in the excitement of the finish. The uncommonness of the dropping of King by Gower at the end of the innings was the ground, booting every step the Englishmen took, was infinitely more disagreeable than the result. Personally, they were the last adolescent who took a swing at Breareley as he came off the field after making a great effort to win the match for England.

The conditions were very much what England must have hoped for: it was a lovely day, though with a strong wind blowing from England, who had chosen to field, to find a little movement. They removed Haynes at 17, well-caught at the wicket inside the square, and Richards for 23. Much later, on a pitch which had by then nothing to offer the quartet of West Indian batsmen, England had their heads in front: after 38 overs they were 150 for three with Willey and Larkins playing very well.



The end for England as Bairstow is run out by Holding off the final ball of the match.

Looking back, three mistakes, or any one of them, may have cost England the match. The first was dropping of King by Gower at the end of the first innings. The second was dropping of Willey by Larkins at the end of the second. The third was dropping of Richards for 23. Much later, on a pitch which had by then nothing to offer the quartet of West Indian batsmen, England had their heads in front: after 38 overs they were 150 for three with Willey and Larkins playing very well.

King at shortish midwicket to get rid of Gooch and the other, also at midwicket but rather straighter, to put an end to the danger.

Behind the wicket Murray had a slipshod day and his mood was threatening to spread through the West Indian ranks as Willey and Larkins, taking a heavy toll of Richards and King, raised English hopes. Boycott, restored to the side, had made a solid and sensible 50, and although Gower was soon out England were making only 64 from 11 overs, a winning position, when Larkins played Croft to Kalicharran at deep square-leg. On a ground as large as this there was a good second run there, but although Willey went for 8, Larkins did not and it was, I suppose, Larkins' call to take the West Indians took two splendid driving catches, one by

making 80, were never allowed to break loose.

Even so, at 160 for two at the start of the 40th over, with Kalicharran and Gooch having already added 55, they must have been aiming at something like 240. By bowling Kalicharran and Gooch, the West Indians were well caught at deep square leg off a gigantic hit. Botham reduced such expectations within two overs. Larkins, Roberts and Garner all went cheaply and King should have done.

A crowd of nearly 30,000 were present. I imagine that England when West Indies came so near to being beaten, England should have won, I thought, that England should have won only because Willey and Larkins were needlessly run out. In forcing the issue the West Indians took two splendid driving catches, one by

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were in the end to winning. England never quite looked like doing it once Botham had been caught off a full-blooded drive. I had wished, but Bairstow first came in, that he had sent Bairstow in ahead of him; in the event, however, Bairstow would have been hard pressed to play better than his captain.

For much of the West Indian innings England had bowled at the leg stump, sometimes wide of it; when West Indies did the same, though more so, England could have no complaints, although Croft, Holding, Dilley and Botham all got away with balls that would have been one-day wickets in England. Bairstow, with six or eight of them.

From the last three overs, to be bowled by Roberts and Holding, Bairstow and Bairstow needed 25; from the last they needed 15, with two balls left they had scored 14 runs to 10. Had the scores finished level it would have been a tie rather than a win for the side with more wickets standing. But it was not to be. The bowling starts again in Sydney on Tuesday, with the second of the final games.

WEST INDIES	
C. G. Greenidge, c Larkins, b	8
P. L. Simmons, c Bairstow, b Willey	9
A. Richards, c Bairstow, b	21
D. Kalicharran, b Botham	23
C. C. Lloyd, b Botham	23
V. D. Murray, c Bairstow, b	4
A. M. Roberts, run out	4
M. A. Holding, not out	11
M. A. Holding, not out	11
Extras (1-2 lb, w, 1, 2, 3-1 lb, 1)	21
Total (8 wkts)	215
C. Croft did not bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-23, 3-23, 4-23, 5-23, 6-23, 7-23, 8-23, 9-23, 10-23, 11-23, 12-23, 13-23, 14-23, 15-23, 16-23, 17-23, 18-23, 19-23, 20-23, 21-23, 22-23, 23-23, 24-23, 25-23, 26-23, 27-23, 28-23, 29-23, 30-23, 31-23, 32-23, 33-23, 34-23, 35-23, 36-23, 37-23, 38-23, 39-23, 40-23, 41-23, 42-23, 43-23, 44-23, 45-23, 46-23, 47-23, 48-23, 49-23, 50-23, 51-23, 52-23, 53-23, 54-23, 55-23, 56-23, 57-23, 58-23, 59-23, 60-23, 61-23, 62-23, 63-23, 64-23, 65-23, 66-23, 67-23, 68-23, 69-23, 70-23, 71-23, 72-23, 73-23, 74-23, 75-23, 76-23, 77-23, 78-23, 79-23, 80-23, 81-23, 82-23, 83-23, 84-23, 85-23, 86-23, 87-23, 88-23, 89-23, 90-23, 91-23, 92-23, 93-23, 94-23, 95-23, 96-23, 97-23, 98-23, 99-23, 100-23, 101-23, 102-23, 103-23, 104-23, 105-23, 106-23, 107-23, 108-23, 109-23, 110-23, 111-23, 112-23, 113-23, 114-23, 115-23, 116-23, 117-23, 118-23, 119-23, 120-23, 121-23, 122-23, 123-23, 124-23, 125-23, 126-23, 127-23, 128-23, 129-23, 130-23, 131-23, 132-23, 133-23, 134-23, 135-23, 136-23, 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Presley's doctor suspended for three months

Memphis, Jan 20.—Elvis Presley's doctor was suspended from medical practice for three months and placed on probation for three years yesterday after being found guilty of prescribing drugs to the late singer and nine other people.

But Dr. George Nichopoulos was acquitted unanimously by the Tennessee state Board of Medical Examiners of two charges involving unprofessional conduct and "gross incompetence, gross ignorance and gross negligence".

In connection with Presley, the five doctors who comprise the board said their judgment was based on the 196 prescriptions issued for the singer in the 20 months before his death on August 16, 1977. The board made no official statement on the cause of death, which a coroner had ruled was due to a heart attack.

Testimony

Poor	Varied	Good	Fine
Good	Crust	Good	Cloud
Good	Varied	Good	Fine

SPORT

Golf

A man who is not sure of himself catches the eye of the storm

From Peter Ryde
Phoenix, Jan 20

Lightning flashed, the commissioner's siren sounded to halt play, the amateur park was soon awash, like many of the greens on a course already well watered artificially, as a storm, which had threatened all day, with banks of cloud drifting about as though in some celestial furniture move, broke in the last hour of the second round of the Phoenix Open.

Jack Renner, a young Californian, physically a dapper lightweight, but no lightweight in performance—he finished third in last year's tournament players' championship and, furthermore, in the end-of-season line-up—led at this stage. He had the better of the weather, as had Sullivan and Mitchell, who were due one stroke behind him. One commentator with a fine disregard of English diction, as had Sullivan and Mitchell, who were due one stroke behind him. One commentator with a fine disregard of English diction, as had Sullivan and Mitchell, who were due one stroke behind him.

These three had finished before the wind got tough, so that decent scores by Littered and an inward half of 34 by Crenshaw for another par round of 71 were not appreciated. Crenshaw's part was all solid and his driving, with a swing that now stops just short of the horizontal, was equal to narrow fairways in a crosswind. He was paired with a black player, Calvin Peete, one of 18 brothers and sisters who for years thought golf a silly game but who last year won a tournament and made a lot of money.

The storm left its mark on the third round in the form of casual water and rain, but the greens kept their pace remarkably. The fever had passed and the sun was again, but the fairways were too soggy to be cut and the crispness had gone out of the lies.

This quietened the scoring, which usually hovers around the mid-70s with the leaders; Hubert Green's 68, the lowest of the day, raised him to within one stroke of Mitchell, the leader after three rounds.

One does not easily get inside Green's mind. He turns questions aside with an attempt at humour. Deane Beman, head of the American PGA, was talking earlier in the day of the need for their best players to keep on winning so that the public can identify with superstars. Green is one of those. He finished second last year in the order of merit, but that was a long way behind those with whom he would like to be associated.

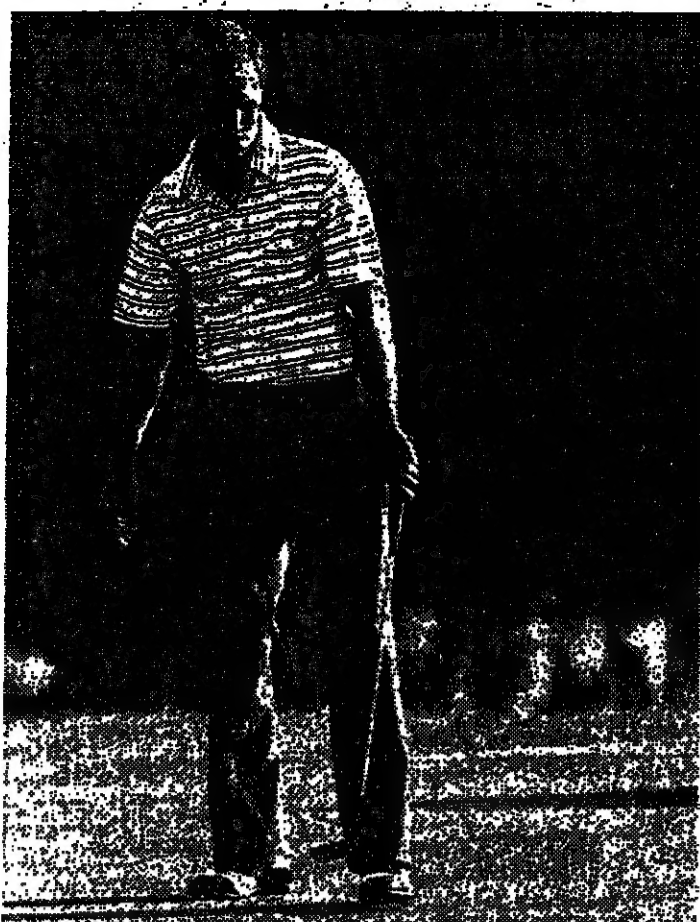
Green wore long underwear yesterday, which might be misinterpreted in Britain. It was not that cold. Conditions, though not the surroundings, reminded me of a certain autumn day at Chesham when he lost the Dunlop Masters to Balduvino Dassu.

Mitchell might be a modest, bespectacled young scholar, not altogether sure of himself, but articulate. Just when it looked as though he might be starting to slip he saved par twice from within the order of merit, but that was a long way behind those with whom he would like to be associated.

Stadler, who won last week, is still riding the crest five behind after three rounds in spite of starting with a 71. He is 33 home, showed he prefers the shorter and more interesting half, for it is here only that he has made any progress. This was in contrast to leader, who will be 30 this summer, and who climbed to within two of the lead early in the round before dropping back.

He looks more robust than usual: only in his expression is there a sign of what he suffered in his illness two years ago. The crowds will never be roused by him but in these parts he commands much respect.

Two names known to Walker Cup golf, Curtis Strange (1975) and John Fought (1977), showed up well after three rounds. They found their way into the top ten, their position well reflects their developing success on tour. Fought completed his first season last year with two victories, and 14



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Athletics

Foster seeks the sunshine to prepare for Moscow

By Michael Seely

Three years ago when he ran the 5,000 metres and 10,000 metres, does not rule his chances of winning a gold medal to add to the bronze he won in the 10,000 metres at Montreal.

"The days of my winning gold medals are over. These days I am pleased just to be able to train and compete when I want. I enjoy the Olympics when they come round," he said.

In New Zealand he will be staying with another British runner, Dave Moorcroft, in Hamilton, but does not plan at this stage to race there.

"I have only been to New Zealand once before, for the Commonwealth Games, but I am looking forward to the sunshine and things go well except to stay for three months."

Racing

The real Border Incident stands up at last

By Michael Seely

Opinion varied about the merit of Border Incident's bloodless victory in the Fawcett Stakes at Kempton Park on Saturday. This divergence of views was reflected in the prices that the leading firms were prepared to offer against Richard Head's ten-year-old for the Cheltenham Gold Cup. William Hill's in-house reaction was to reduce Border Incident's price to 8/1, and Coral slashed his odds from 14/1 to 10/1. The Tote, on the other hand, considered that the race was a non-event, and set prepared to lay 14/1 to 1.

All this is perfectly understandable. King Weasel, an odds-on favourite after his victory at Newmarket last weekend, was never jumping or even galloping with any real freedom. Indeed, he was never jumping or even galloping with any real freedom. Indeed, he was never jumping or even galloping with any real freedom.

Fontwell Park programme

1.30	SHERIFFNEY CHASE (Handicap: selling: £831: 34m)
1.45	ATON HURDLE (Handicap: selling: £403: 2m 176yd)
2.15	COUNTRY CHASE (Handicap: £1,190: 3m 31yd)
2.45	THORPE HURDLE (Handicap: £673: 2m 176yd)
3.15	FACEY CHASE (Novices: £870: 2m)
3.45	BOWES HURDLE (Div II: 4-y-o novices: £480: 2m 176yd)
4.15	Fontwell Park programme
4.45	Fontwell Park programme
5.15	Fontwell Park programme
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12.15	Fontwell Park programme
12.45	Fontwell Park programme

Stockton programme

1.15	BOWES HURDLE (Div I: 4-y-o novices: £472: 2m 176yd)
1.45	ATON HURDLE (Handicap: selling: £403: 2m 176yd)
2.15	COUNTRY CHASE (Handicap: £1,190: 3m 31yd)
2.45	THORPE HURDLE (Handicap: £673: 2m 176yd)
3.15	FACEY CHASE (Novices: £870: 2m)
3.45	BOWES HURDLE (Div II: 4-y-o novices: £480: 2m 176yd)
4.15	Fontwell Park programme
4.45	Fontwell Park programme
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12.45	Fontwell Park programme

Stockton selections

By Michael Seely

1.15 RAMP is specially recommended. 1.45 HI-QUAY. 2.15 Rambling Jack. 2.45 Autumn Glow. 3.15 Badsworth Boy. 3.45 Come To Hand.

Skating

Miss Nadig justifies rating as favourite

Badgastein, Austria, Jan 20—Marie-Theres Nadig of Switzerland continued the form which has made her favourite for an Olympic Gold medal by winning her sixth women's World Cup downhill race of the season here today. Miss Nadig left the starting gate in downhill and giant slalom in the 1972 Sapporo Olympics, shot down the 3,016 metres course here in 1 min 53.89 sec.

Her arch rival, Annemarie Moser of Austria, whose time of 1 min 50.39 sec was the best until Miss Nadig left the starting gate, finished second and Leontine Wenzel was third in 1 min 53.38 sec.

The victory confirmed Miss Nadig's season-long position as favourite for the women's downhill gold medal in Lake Placid next month, but Swiss skier was reluctant to make any predictions. "I'm against calling one person a definite favourite, and after the race, 'Someone else'—not the so-called favourite—could win."

Mrs Moser, whose only victory over Miss Nadig this season came in the first downhill event in West Germany on January 6, laughed off suggestions that she was worried about her chances in the Olympics. "I'm really not thinking a lot about the Olympics now. Mrs Moser did not compete in the 1976 games in Innsbruck."

Yugoslav ousts Stenmark after favourite runs out

Wengen, Switzerland, Jan 20—Bogdan Kralj of Yugoslavia ousted Stenmark from the early elimination of the 1976 Alpine Cup, the favourite from Liechtenstein, to score his first World Cup victory here today. He edged out Sweden's Ingemar Stenmark, in a closely contested slalom.

Kralj, 23, ousted Stenmark on each of the two downhill runs down tortuous tracks slicked out with 57 and 56 gates, after Wenzel straddled a gate-bank at the start of his first downhill and ran off the course.

The Yugoslav clocked times of 43.53 and 43.43 sec for an aggregate of 87.0 min 27.30 sec. Stenmark was 0.17 sec slower.

Leontine Wenzel's Paul Frommelt, who equaled Kralj's time in the second run, clocked in 1:27.88. Although beaten, Stenmark placed 20 World Cup points which he added to his 113 points overall standings with 113 points. Wenzel dropped back to second place on 110, and Kralj climbed from fifth to third place with 100.

Speed skating

NAIJES, NED: 500 metres: R. Muis (Netherlands), 41.2; P. Muis (Netherlands), 41.3; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 41.4; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 41.5; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 41.6; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 41.7; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 41.8; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 41.9; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 42.0; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 42.1; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 42.2; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 42.3; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 42.4; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 42.5; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 42.6; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 42.7; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 42.8; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 42.9; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 43.0; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 43.1; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 43.2; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 43.3; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 43.4; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 43.5; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 43.6; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 43.7; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 43.8; J. K. Keesen (Netherlands), 43.9; J. K. 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ORC

An extremely high poll supports the law now going through Parliament to ban secondary picketing

A sweeping disapproval of flying pickets

The general public, trade union members and even active trade union members strongly disapprove of the flying picket tactics currently being used by the British Steel strikers.

An astonishingly high 86 per cent of all adults believe the new law going through Parliament should make it illegal for strikers to put pickets anywhere except outside their own place of work. This view is shared by a majority of workers and trade unionists:

Non-union members	90 per cent
Union members	79 per cent
Active union members	70 per cent

These facts emerge in a special poll of attitudes to trade union reform carried out for *The Times* by Opinion Research and Communication.

The findings were not affected by recent publicity on pickets clashing with the police since the fieldwork was done before the picketing problems began to emerge in the BSC strike.

The survey shows that public hostility to the power of trade unions has not abated since the general election.

Public opinion is still strongly behind the Government's plans to bring in legislation designed to curb some union powers.

The first questions asked confirmed that most people now believe unions are too powerful and that steps should be taken to reduce that power. The general feeling, too, is that the unions should accept the reforms.

Q: Some people feel that British trade unions have too much power and show too little responsibility. Do you think this is true or not true?

	All	Non trade union workers	Trade union members	Active trade union members
In favour	78	83	68	55
Not in favour	16	11	27	38
Don't know	6	6	6	6

Q: The Government is planning to bring in a law shortly which will reduce trade union power in certain ways. Are you in favour of this or not in favour?

	All	Non trade union workers	Trade union members	Active trade union members
In favour	79	78	81	45
Not in favour	19	14	17	54
Don't know	2	8	2	1

Q: Do you think that the unions should accept this new law cutting their power, or do you think that they should fight it?

	All	Non trade union workers	Trade union members	Active trade union members
Should accept new law	78	78	56	39
Should fight it	22	16	38	50
Don't know	8	6	6	11

The arguments on productivity and the need for wage increases to be keyed to an increase in productivity appear to be getting across. A



An angry coal lorry driver confronts miners' strike pickets at Dover.

majority of the public at any rate seem to attach quite a lot of blame to the unions for the national problems of low productivity.

Q: How much do you think the trade unions are to blame for the country's problems of low productivity?

	All	Non trade union workers	Trade union members	Active trade union members
A great deal	34	36	24	19
Quite a lot	25	27	22	18
A certain amount	25	23	28	34
Not much	7	6	10	12
Not at all	7	4	14	17
Don't know	2	2	2	2

However, high unemployment is not laid at the door of the unions to such a great extent though four out of ten think a great deal or quite a lot of blame can be placed on the unions.

Q: How much do you think the trade unions are to blame for the country's problems of high unemployment?

	All	Non trade union workers	Trade union members	Active trade union members
A great deal	21	24	16	10
Quite a lot	21	24	18	11
A certain amount	26	26	25	24
Not much	18	13	20	26
Not at all	13	8	23	26
Don't know	4	6	2	3

A good majority is in favour of tackling both the closed shop and picketing.

Q: Two of the subjects to be tackled by the new law will be the closed shop and rules

about picketing during an industrial dispute. Are you in favour or not in favour of the new law changing the present rules which cover...

	All	Non trade union workers	Trade union members	Active trade union members
In favour	64	66	59	55
Not in favour	22	18	32	38
Don't know	14	16	9	6

However, public feeling is very much stronger on picketing than on the question of the closed shop. Only 37 per cent would like to see it abolished completely. More people favour the idea of democratising it so that a closed shop only operates if a majority of workers have voted for it.

Q: Which of the following statements is closest to your own opinion on the closed shop?

	All	Non trade union workers	Trade union members	Active trade union members
The closed shop is a bad thing and should be abolished completely	37	41	29	21
The closed shop should only be allowed where the great majority of workers vote for having it	46	41	53	50
All large companies should operate a closed shop	11	13	16	13
Don't know	6	6	2	1

The figure in favour of limiting the activities of pickets is the highest in the entire survey—and among the highest recorded in surveys of opinion about industrial relations matters. There can be no doubt about the strength of feeling on this issue.

Q: The new law will make it illegal for strikers to put pickets anywhere except outside their own place of work. Do you agree with this, or do you think that in a dispute workers should be able to put pickets in other places as well?

	All	Non trade union workers	Trade union members	Active trade union members
Limit picketing to place of work	68	66	70	70
Put pickets in other places	9	9	17	17
Don't know	8	4	4	3

It is interesting that trade union activists are also in favour, by a substantial majority, of limiting picketing activities.

The public view is also clear on the subject of sympathy strikes and blacking. Seven out of ten reject the idea that they are a legitimate weapon in an industrial dispute and believe that the new law should restrict their use.

Q: Another area where the Government might act is on sympathy strikes or "blacking"—for example where the dockers help the miners' strike by refusing to move coal. Do you think sympathy strikes and blacking are legitimate weapons to use in an industrial dispute, or should the new law restrict their use?

	All	Non trade union workers	Trade union members	Active trade union members
New law should restrict their use	71	78	62	48
Legitimate weapon in industrial disputes	19	14	31	46
Don't know	10	10	7	6

In this instance one in two trade union activists feel that sympathy strikes are legitimate weapons to be used in a dispute situation.

The survey looked at two other controversial issues—the so-called "funding of strikes" by state benefits and the issue of tackling those who misuse the state benefit system.

Q: Which of these statements is closest to your own opinion?

	All	Non trade union workers	Trade union members	Active trade union members
Strikers' families should get social security benefits from the State	10	5	34	13
Strikers' families should only get social security benefits when union funds are exhausted	27	26	24	32
Strikers' families should not get social security benefits	19	26	12	19
Strikers' families should get social security benefits but the money should be paid back when the strike is over	31	37	26	34
None of these	2	3	0	1
Don't know	2	1	4	4

There is clearly no consensus on handling this thorny problem and views are so widely

split that any action on it would be bound to be controversial. So far as "scroungers" who abuse the Social Security benefit system are concerned there is a lot of anger. Three quarters of the entire sample thought that the system was misused and only two out of 10 thought it was treated responsibly.

However, public opinion is strongly against tackling this misuse by taxing unemployment benefits, as has been considered.

Q: Some people believe that there is a lot of misuse of Social Security benefits, with people drawing benefits while they are earning money. Others believe that, by and large, people treat the Social Security system responsibly. Do you think...

	All	Non trade union workers	Trade union members	Active trade union members
The system is misused	76	70	81	71
Not people treat it responsibly	19	24	15	14
Don't know	5	6	4	4

Q: One way to penalise people who cheat the system, which is being considered by the Government, is to tax unemployment benefits. However this would also hurt the genuinely unemployed. Would you be in favour or not in favour of taxing unemployment benefits?

	All	Non trade union workers	Trade union members	Active trade union members
In favour	26	27	31	25
Not in favour	68	62	65	75
Don't know	12	10	10	10

Finally, two other areas which find strong public support are for a secret ballot before a strike, which is supported by eight out of ten people, and that trade union leaders and officials should be elected by secret ballot. The latter is supported by three quarters of the sample.

	All	Non trade union workers	Trade union members	Active trade union members
Trade union leaders should and officials should be elected by secret ballot	79	72	88	71
Agree	21	28	9	22
Disagree	8	6	9	7
Don't know	8	6	9	7

	All	Non trade union workers	Trade union members	Active trade union members
There should be a secret ballot of all workers before a strike is called	85	85	87	88
Agree	10	11	8	13
Disagree	5	4	4	4
Don't know	5	4	4	4

Note: The fieldwork for the survey was carried out between January 4 and 6 with a representative national quota sample of 1,039 adults. The sample was designed and the fieldwork carried out by Opinion Research Centre in 100 constituencies in England, Scotland and Wales.

* All figures in the tables are percentages. © Opinion Research and Communication, January 1980.

A dissident group's letter from Prague on the Moscow Olympics

Why Hitler's insult must not be repeated

Perhaps everything will already have been said by the time you read this letter. Maybe the idea of an international boycott of the Olympic Games in Moscow will by that time be a mere threat. Maybe Kabul, reminding us of Prague in August, 1968, will still be a trauma very much alive or maybe it will have become a gradually dimmed bitter pill. Maybe everything will already have been decided—and yet we would like to state our point of view.

A boycott of the summer Olympic Games... An athlete who has been preparing for his top performance for many years can feel such a decision as a blow to his life-long ambition. Perhaps he will never have another opportunity. Once before, in the middle of the 1930s, the world faced a similar decision. A handful of over-sensitive democrats accompanied by a not very constructive left wing rejected Berlin as the venue of the Olympic Games. But wise counsel, the idea of pure sport free from the adverse influence of politics, strong faith in the good example of democracy, triumphed. The Olympic flag was hoisted, and blended with the swastika. Germany became the major country in the world for a number of glorious days.

A Germany of magnificent

sports grounds, a Germany without strikes and unemployment, perhaps somewhere militaristic and egotistic in its Nuremberg race laws but also of the violation of law and order so characteristic of the freer world. The moral boost which Hitler Germany received by the organisation of the games drowned the warning voices for a long time to come. Whether motivated by good will or complacency—it was one of many errors for which the world had to pay a heavy price. No one has any doubts that Moscow will be an impressive host of the summer Olympic Games. The stadiums will be completed, the hotels ready, there will be plenty of food not only in Moscow but also in Kiev and Tbilisi. There will not be a single demonstration and no delegation need fear a terrorist attack. The first socialist state in the world will gain fresh international recognition as the champion of the lofty idea of peace and friendship. The Olympic flag at the Berlin stadium was an insult of thousands. The Olympic flag in the world stadium will be an insult of millions.

The Soviet intervention in Kabul, deprived of shabby justifications, is an outright and outrageous aggression. It is not a fortuitous deviation from good manners but a manifest component of the dragon seed.

Today we can merely guess its construction but dread its ultimate objectives. If the Soviet aggression in Afghanistan is merely condemned by words it will, against our will, become the norm to be repeated on future suitable occasions. If we reprimand the aggressor but at the same time allow him to hold the games we shall confirm our impotence in his eyes.

You are rightly asking who we are and where our responsibility lies for such a significant international act. We live in Prague, the city where Mr. Babrak Karmal, the brand-new Afghan premier and his close advisers, were screened, bought and trained. We are in opposition to our Government and to the government of our country, but we are not in opposition to our people. The overwhelming majority of our people share our views. The only difference between them and us is that we do not conceal our views. That is why we have been deprived of the fundamental human joys—to do the kind of work which would give us more than just our livelihood. Our children, most of them, have been deprived of the joy of learning. At times we are interrogated, vilified or imprisoned. Many consider the price we pay for the feeling of a little freedom and a clear conscience excessively high.

As long as international developments proceed under the cloak of détente, as long as modern western technology and grain from overseas pour into the countries of the Soviet block our position is likely to remain unchanged. The moment the western states say "enough" our position will not be enviable. Instead of shadowing us they will arrest us instead of arresting us they will kill us. The same goes for our Polish and Hungarian friends whose regimes today show greater restraint. Any objection that this is impossible in Europe in the 1980s is a cheap and empty illusion.

So it is in our vital interest to continue and intensify co-operation between countries and not exacerbate international relations. Moscow's angry reaction would be felt above all within the orbit of its power. It would not affect the French, the Dutch, the Americans or the British but us. And yet we maintain that the democracies should not send their athletes to the summer Olympic Games in Moscow. We are aware of the feelings of sportsmen and of the declarations of representatives of the international Olympic movement. We would be happy to live in a world where sports could be separated from politics. But we do not live in such a world. Every athlete

from the eastern block countries who goes to compete at the games is a professional in the full sense of the word. He is a state investment with the sole objective of increasing the international prestige of his state. A young person who expresses a view different from state doctrine will never reach the centre of top sports performance.

In the Soviet concept the Olympic Games are above all a political matter as well as an opportunity of gaining hard currency. And what is more, the subjected countries of the Soviet block have to contribute a set sum to cover the cost of the games.

In our view the idea of separating sports and politics is a cruel misunderstanding. If we bring it to its logical conclusion the next Olympics may be held anywhere, in South Africa or in Vietnam. Prompt moral sanctions—the most moderate of all sanctions—have a greater value than a host of declarations. They will prevent the aggressor from donning a halo of peace, they embody the hope of averting dangerous future developments. It would be better to change the city of the Olympics even at the last moment than to have war in the year of the Olympics. © Palach Press Ltd. London

New words and new meanings: an occasional series

Have pity for the poor Byzantine

Loose modern rhetoric tarnishes Byzantium the golden, the custodian of our western heritage for 10 centuries. To describe some activity, usually political, as Byzantine has come to be a popular insult. It means that it is usually intricate and inflexible, and has other similarly unflattering characteristics.

For example: "Only in the Byzantine world of mineworkers' politics would a wage claim knocking on 65 per cent be labelled a victory for moderation." Pity the poor Byzantines! They have joined the Welsh, the Jews, the Tatars, the Jesuits, and the Turks in having their name abused by the careless as an insult. And there are no Byzantines left to protect their ethnic sensibilities.

Now it is true that only a cursory reading of Gibbon or St. Steven Runciman is needed to come to the conclusion that Byzantine politics were at times complicated. The curious reader has to keep his eyes sharp to distinguish between his Comnenes and his Palaeologs, the family whose imperial line stretched out across the early Middle Ages to the crack of doom made by the Turkish cannon. It is a millennium rich with complication, particularly that most complicated of simplicities, religious enthusiasm.

But for our generation to suppose that the distinguishing feature of Byzantium was the complexity of its politics is as one-eyed a view of history as

to suppose that Rome declined and fell because of sexual promiscuity, or that English is simply a synonym for industrial anarchy and idleness. It was not a mistake made by Mohammed II, the young man whose janizaries finally sacked Constantinople, with the last Christian emperor standing in the breach, abandoned by his western allies, holding the infidel at bay until their numbers overpowered him and he died, with the empire as his winding sheet.

It was not a mistake made by Henry James, that master of linguistic nuance. In *The Wings of the Dove* Miss Thea Sedgwick indulges in a long and typically Jamesian interior monologue on the pleasures of being metaphorically Byzantine. I think she means by Byzantine romantic, and formal, and rich, and rare. But this passage is

James in opaque mood: "In Heaven there'll be no learning dates or names. But only playing golden harps. And reading Henry James. The BBC and Waverley were partly responsible for the shorthand use of Byzantine to mean complicated and bring. When Mr. Ted Heath was earning the sobriquet of Gower by his meticulous report on tariffs, it became a commonplace of political journalism to refer to the government's Byzantine approach to the European Economic Community. It is still a popular metaphor for the gobs of pounds, shillings and pence, and other boring jargon of Eurobureaucracy."

Mr. Richard Nixon's presidency provided frequent opportunities for the new use of Byzantine. In fact a better analogy was with the secret and sinister government of Istanbul, with the White House coming to resemble the Yildiz Kiosk, where the Ottoman Emperor, Abdul the Damned, made a virtual prisoner of himself.

Our new vogue use of Byzantine is a mean complex and Machiavellian ignorance of the debt that our civilisation and culture owe to our link to the ancient world. It is a unfair as the notion that all suits dissemble or that all the Welsh refuse to pay their gambling with packs of dogs, mixtures of greyhounds and wolfhounds. Tempters are running high, and a third party to the dispute are those who do not like to see coyotes killed at all. Mr. Don Pridge, the state conservation officer, took a neutral view.

You either like a coyote or you don't," he told the *Des Moines Register*. The same goes for presidential candidates. And those whom towns do not like could easily in a political sense, suffer the fate of the coyotes.

Michael Leapman

IOWA DIARY

In the old days the New Hampshire primary was the season-opener in a presidential election year. It was held in March and the candidate and journalists would complain routinely about having to trudge through the snows, though their complaints would be softened by the knowledge that spring was not far behind.

In every election since the Sixties, the starting date has been pushed back further into winter, in response to some unarticulated and probably quite imaginary public demand to see America's potential leaders jump through more and more hoops.

As other states held early primaries, New Hampshire had to switch to a February date to keep its position as the first. Then came a resurrection of the precinct caucuses, a more elaborate way of choosing Convention delegates which had for some time been falling out of favour.

President (as he then was) Carter is credited with the discovery of the January Iowa caucuses in 1976. Because he used them to launch his successful campaign for the presidency, all the candidates are this year seeking to emulate him.

The result is that the campaigning season starts just after Christmas—or earlier if you count the inconclusive Florida straw polls in December. And among the many qualities now required of a candidate is an ability to negotiate the hazards of midwinter travel in the Midwest.

When I arrived in Iowa last week, the temperature was hovering near zero Fahrenheit and a piercing wind was gusting to 40 miles an hour. Radio announcers gleefully told us that this meant a wind chill factor of something like minus 60 degrees—a ridiculous calculation but one which appeared to give them pleasure.

The 100-mile drive from Waterloo to Mason City afforded some spectacular moments, particularly when the frozen crossed rivers and lakes frozen over, fringed with bare trees bending in the wind. Snow from the fields blew over the road like icing sugar and not a soul was out of doors.

On the car radio, the country and western music was interrupted by advertisements for the candidates. Senator Edward Kennedy was the first I heard, a gruesome and topical account of how some old people had to wrap themselves in

newspapers to keep themselves warm and how something should be done about it.

It is impossible to quarrel with that sentiment, or indeed with almost anything said by the candidates in their speeches or advertisements. Most were along the lines of: "Let's bring back the America that was something special in this world." I copied that down from a speech by Senator Howard Baker, a Republican, but it could have been almost anyone.

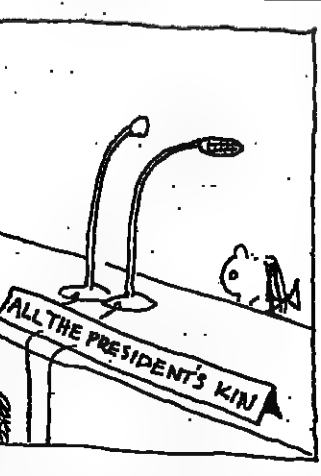
Mr. Kennedy's version was: "We can do better to bring about a restoration of the prestige of the United States." (I am unsure whether the dynamic overtones of the word "restoration", recalling Charles II, were deliberate.)

Additionally, he urged the voters to send a message that the people of Iowa believe that the American dream is alive and well. Neither he nor any other candidate offered details how the dream could be fulfilled, save through firm and dynamic leadership of the brand only they could provide. Although Mr. Kennedy gets surprisingly mumble-mouthed at impromptu question-and-answer sessions, he has an impressively forceful style when speaking from a prepared script. He was positively electric during a meeting in Waterloo the other night when he shared the platform with Governor Jerry Brown of California, a distant rival, and Vice-President Walter Mondale, standing in for Mr. Carter.

Mr. Kennedy adopted a hectoring tone which was all the more effective because the sound system had been set too loud with the result that his highest notes menaced the eardrums. He began by flamboyantly presenting Mr. Mondale with a football shirt emblazoned with the number 2—seeming far for being a deputy.

As the cameras clicked Mr. Brown, who felt justifiably that he was being squeezed out of the picture, stood up and inserted himself within camera range between the two. Mr. Kennedy showed that he knew as many of these old tricks as the Californian by holding the shirt higher and obliterating Mr. Brown's face.

Mr. Brown tries hard to get into the spirit of these occasions but he is sullen and brooding by nature and does not hide it well. He looked less than comfortable throughout and glowered angrily when the



chairman of the meeting made the inevitable joke about his well-publicized relationship with Miss Linda Ronstadt, a singer. The Californian Governor sticks to his frugal principles religiously. While Mr. Kennedy flies across the state in a chartered jet from Washington, Mr. Brown came on a scheduled flight and then chartered a small plane with propellers for his local journeys. The point must be made

though, that he has fewer appearances than Mr. Kennedy, who has to take along not only his posse of journalists (who complain about being overcharged for the trips) and security people, but also members of his family.

His wife, Joan, was with him for a few days, to be replaced later by his 19-year-old daughter, Kara, and his son, Patrick, who is 12. At the end of every public meeting Mr. Kennedy shakes hands with as many members of the audience as his schedule will allow and at the Mason City meeting Kara and Patrick stood in the receiving line with him, stoically pumping and smiling pleasantly for all of 20 minutes.

Yet none of the candidates can match President Carter when it comes to family. During his self-deceiving absence from the fray, allowing him to stay in Washington to see that the international crises do not boil over, he has sent his wife, mother, sister and son to campaign for him as well as his vice-president and members of his cabinet. Only brother Billy has been left out.

There is one significant difference between campaigning in these primaries and caucuses and campaigning in a real elec-

tion. While in the later each candidate loudly proclaims his confidence that he will win, in these early contests the technique is to say you expect to do this because commentators measure the results against expectations. The moral victor is not the one who gets the most votes but the one who does better than anyone thought he would (eg. Senator George McGovern's showing against Senator Edmund Muskie in New Hampshire in 1972).

Thus if any Republican gets within 10 per cent of the front-running Mr. Ronald Reagan, that will be seen as a defeat for Mr. Reagan, who might then soon retire from the fray. Equally if Mr. Carter gets less than half the Democratic votes, he will be damaged.

That is why Mr. Carter's supporters in Iowa are urging everyone not to forget that the grain embargo will hurt him with farmers. Mr. Kennedy's people counter with the argument that a President in office is hard to fight at times of crisis. Senator Howard Baker urges us to disregard the Iowa opinion poll which put him second to Mr. Reagan with an impressive 18 per cent of the votes. He does not expect, he says, to do as well.

One factor which might hurt Mr. Kennedy in rural states is his advocacy of control of handgun guns. He has had to write letters to Iowa gun enthusiasts explaining that his proposals cover only small guns and would not inhibit the historic American freedom to buy long sporting guns and fire them off at anything that moves.

If he is lucky, Iowa sportsmen will find themselves too caught up in another contest to bother with tonight's caucuses. This dispute is between the coyote hunters of Iowa, who use guns, and those of neighbouring Minnesota, who cross the state border to hunt coyotes with packs of dogs, mixtures of greyhounds and wolfhounds.

Temperatures are running high, and a third party to the dispute are those who do not like to see coyotes killed at all. Mr. Don Pridge, the state conservation officer, took a neutral view.

You either like a coyote or you don't," he told the *Des Moines Register*. The same goes for presidential candidates. And those whom towns do not like could easily in a political sense, suffer the fate of the coyotes.

Michael Leapman



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YUGOSLAVIA AFTER TITO

President Tito has survived many things, including now the amputation of his left leg. But the operation must be a severe shock to the system of an eighty-seven-year-old man, even such a robust one. It would clearly be folly to assume that he will make either a quick or a complete recovery. Let us wish him both, but he will hardly blame us for examining now the implications of his death or prolonged incapacity.

Anxiety naturally focuses on Soviet intentions, especially in the light of the invasion of Afghanistan, but also of other invasions closer in space if more distant in time. Yugoslavia is a communist state—in Soviet language—a conquest of socialism—even if, from Moscow's point of view, an unorthodox and awkward one. According to the Brezhnev doctrine the Soviet Union therefore has the right and the duty to save it from itself by military action if necessary, should it show signs of backsliding into the clutches of capitalism. Under Marshal Tito it has already shown many such signs, according to the Soviet sign manual: open borders, a convertible currency, imports of "capitalist" newspapers and books, a highly decentralized economy allowing even a degree of foreign capitalist investment. In these respects it has gone way beyond what Hungary had a chance to do in 1956 or Czechoslovakia in 1968. The main differences are that in Yugoslavia there has never been any serious doubt about the ability of the Communist Party to maintain overall control, and that in

Yugoslavia there can be no doubt at all that Soviet intervention would encounter serious military resistance. How far have these two all-important differences depended on President Tito's personality? In 1948 both probably did to a very considerable extent. The communists held power not by popular vote but as the fruit of military victory. The communists believed in what that of the Soviet Union; they belonged to a system which Stalin was until then the undisputed international leader. But Tito was equally indisputably their national leader. Only he, as the communist leader who had triumphed over the Nazi invader (as well as over the rival resistance force of Mihajlovic), had the authority to lead a communist Yugoslavia in resistance to Stalin's bullying.

Most of his efforts since then have clearly been directed at enabling both the Communist Party and Yugoslavia as a whole to stand on their own feet. He has encouraged, if not invented, a new brand of communism, allowing greater freedom of economic choice at all levels than the conventional sort, and has made this brand of communism a national achievement of which all Yugoslavs can feel proud. He has taken enormous trouble to contain, without exacerbating, the differences between the nations of which Yugoslavia is composed, and to check any incipient rivalry between his subordinates and potential successors. He has sought, in short, to build a political system held together by its own logic.

How far he has succeeded, only the test of his absence will definitively show. There are still those, like the twice-imprisoned writer Mihajlo Mihajlov, who predict that without him his successors will be unable to maintain control and that before long one or other group of them will turn to Moscow for support. But on the whole those observers who know Yugoslavia best are the least anxious, the most confident that unity will prevail for the simple reason that almost all Yugoslavs know that in unity lies their only hope of survival. The elaborate rotating system of leadership devised by Tito may not last, they concede, but the essence of a federation based on equality and a communist tempering by non-alignment without and relative freedom within now reposes on a consensus too strong to crack. (And certainly nothing would solder any cracks more rapidly than a clumsy or premature Soviet attempt to exploit them.)

We have to hope that that is right, and be careful to do nothing to make it wrong. It should be absolutely clear that the West respects and values Yugoslavia's non-alignment, and harbours not the slightest fantasy of reclaiming her for capitalism or ending her into an alliance. On the basis of that and should be equally clear that any interference with Yugoslavia's non-alignment or her political system from the Soviet side, and a fortiori any military incursion into her territory, on the pretext of whatever real or alleged "invitation", would affect the whole security and balance of Europe in a way that the West could not possibly accept.

Civil defence precautions

From Mr David Sneath

Sir, Recent events on the world scene have brought the possibility of war closer. Yet the public is largely ignorant of the means of self-protection and the authorities ill-equipped to help the public to survive.

There are, I suggest, two failures in official thinking. First, that Britain will with the rest of Europe, enjoy the luxury of a "transition-to-war" phase in which to re-establish the means of civil defence. Secondly, that a programme designed to educate the public in the realities of nuclear and wide-scale conventional war will induce unnecessary panic at a time when the risk of war is remote.

That our potential enemies will allow the West the sort of time considered to prepare for war is naive. It is a truism that surprise attack on an unprepared enemy is likely to achieve the best result.

Nuclear war is awful to contemplate; yet nuclear weapons are merely means of inflicting death and destruction, two things ordinary people contemplate from time to time when considering, for example, insuring their lives, their houses or their cars.

Civil defence should therefore be regarded as a form of insurance for which a reasonable premium must be paid. The premium involves education, organization and equipment. Now is the time to release to every household in the land the booklet *Protect and Survive* depicted in your article of January 16. Now is the time for the community to become involved in local defence planning at parish level.

For example, parish and town councils could set up emergency committees to advise the county emergency planning officer and to produce local emergency plans. Further, more thought should be devoted to protecting the urban and suburban population by adapting existing and proposed buildings to use as shelters.

Within a "shelter policy" of the sort adopted by Sweden and Switzerland is beyond our resources, to abandon a substantial part of the population to its fate is irresponsible and will induce the panic and chaos feared of peacetime education.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID SNEATH,
College, College,
Private Road,
Southwell,
Nottinghamshire,
January 18.

Boycotting the Olympics

From Sir William Hayter

Sir, In the autumn of 1956 the Sadler's Wells Ballet, as it then was, was preparing for its first visit to Moscow when the Russians invaded Hungary. I was then British Ambassador in Moscow, and I telegraphed to London saying I thought the ballet visit ought to be cancelled, which it was.

After I got back to London I saw Sadler's Wells Ballet as it then was, and I was angry with me over the cancellation; they had been preparing for the visit for months, were disappointed, and said: "We're dancers; nothing to do with politics." When I explained to them that they would have been dancing on the streets of Hungary they saw the point, and agreed.

Let us hope that British athletes will have as much good sense, and as much patriotism, as British dancers.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM HAYTER,
Sadler's House,
Sadler's Wells,
Leeds, S7 2JL,
January 18.

Researching pornography

From Mr N. March Hunnington

Sir, Mrs Whitehouse (January 8) may find the views of Mr Berl Kutchinsky, the Danish criminologist, concerning pornography, of interest. The Criminal Law Committee, which was asked last September to examine and comment on the Government's proposal to criminalize child pornography, immediately commissioned a report on the subject from Mr Kutchinsky, and that, together with the Committee's report, form the bulk of the explanatory material attached to the text of the Bill when it was submitted to the Danish Parliament just before Christmas.

Of course, as every lawyer knows, no expert, however scholarly, should ever be taken on trust, particularly in such a vague and controversial area as the effect on (sex) crimes of the distribution of hard core pornography. It is therefore significant that the Williams Committee devoted the whole of its section on the criminological consequences of child pornography to a sharp and judicious testing of Mr Kutchinsky's research conclusions. No one who reads those pages could possibly believe that the Williams Committee swallowed anything. It quite clearly made up its own mind as to the evidence before it.

Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE MARCH HUNNINGTON,
Editor, Common Market Law Reports,
European Law Centre Limited,
4 Bloomsbury Square, W.C1,
January 9.

Increases in the price of gas

From Mr Jeremy Mitchell

Sir, If the arguments employed by your leader writer (January 16) to justify the massive increases in the price of gas were taken to their logical conclusion, we would have far more increased still further—on the grounds that as people continue to crowd into trains the fares are obviously still too low—and mortgage interest and council house rents pushed up even higher, on the grounds that they must be too low, since there continued to be a demand for them. Fuel, like housing, transport and food, is essential.

There is more than one view on whether gas and electricity prices should be parallel. There are those who argue that competition between two nationalized fuel industries is the best. Against this, of course, has to be set the inescapable fact that precious energy resources are diminishing, even if Britain is luckier than many others in its wealth of energy, and that in the long term prices must rise to discourage wasteful use.

It is vital therefore to phase in price increases gradually, to give consumers time to adapt to them and plan their budgets accordingly. Rises should be accompanied by a determined energy conservation policy by the Government, with far more cash help, for instance, for insulating homes, more research into alternative sources of energy and more encouragement for the development of economic heating appliances. Such an energy policy costs money. The obvious sources to draw on are the huge surpluses that the already profitable gas and electricity industries will be making.

It is callous in the extreme to impose massive price increases and expect consumers just to switch off and shiver. Already there is plenty of evidence that the poorest households are living in homes that are not just intolerably cold, but sometimes dangerously so.

The Government has chosen, with its new housing allowance scheme, to concentrate help on fewer households than ever before. Admittedly these are the ones most at risk—pensioners over 75 and families on supplementary benefit or family income supplement with children under five—and of course these families will get a bigger allowance than in the past. But most of those who had help under the old electricity discount scheme, which in the National Consumer Council's view did not go far enough, get no help under the new one.

Next winter the old and the cold will suffer severe hardship, even worse than this year's, unless the Government faces up to its responsibility to use some of the enormous fuel profits on helping the very

people who are producing them, by being forced to pay higher prices.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY MITCHELL,
Director,
National Consumer Council,
18 Queen Anne's Gate, SW1.

From Dr David Turton

Sir, None of those who have written to you about the price of gas mention the most outrageous aspect of Government policy (and of your leading article) on this subject.

A huge price increase is to be used to reduce the demand for, and therefore help to conserve, a source of energy used for heating in millions of homes. Some of this conservation effect will come from an absolute reduction in the use made of gas, and therefore of heating, by those on fixed or relatively fixed incomes—especially, of course, pensioners. So the old and the poor are to be deprived of heat so that there is more of it available for those who can afford to pay for it. This may be a "rational" policy but it would be difficult to think of one that was less defensible on moral grounds.

One other point. In your leader you refer to Dr David Owen's opposition to the use of Gas Corporation profits to reduce the taxes of the rich. You ask, with astounding naivety, whether he would object to an "across the board" reduction in taxes. Are you, then, unaware that tax reductions "benefit" most those who pay most in tax, and not at all those whose incomes are so small that they don't pay any? Yours faithfully,
DAVID TURTON,
33 Lea Road,
Heaton Moor, Stockport.

From Dr J. L. Wilson

Sir, The Reverend Dr Varah's letter today (January 18) shows an astonishingly callous disregard for the plight of those who were persuaded to install electric heating systems (usually night storage heaters) at a time when electricity was comparatively cheap and looked likely to remain so. These were usually installed by the State, irresponsible and imprudent, but often elderly people, for whom solid fuel was too arduous a method of heating, and to whom gas seemed hazardous, or was simply not available (in this area of Cambridgeshire there are no gas supplies).

Dr Varah suggests that he could choose gas—but good luck does not justify smugness. Yours faithfully,
JEAN WILSON,
Wholesaler,
Harlow,
Cambridge.

London's third airport

From Sir Peter Masfield

Sir, Your correspondents, so elegantly led by Sir Colin Buchanan, who oppose any development of airports to serve London and the South East, and, certainly, any inland development, surely miss one

point. London's airports now handle more of Britain's trade by value than do any of our seaports; they are the major centres of business and inter-government travel as well as the primary gateway for a cargo class of aircraft movements. Hence, the overriding need for more capacity in terminal buildings and why Roy Watts of British Airways is so right in his plea for a fifth terminal on the Perry Oaks site between the runway at Heathrow, where the runway is too narrow to handle the increasing number of aircraft to the world's leading international airport, the present sewage sludge works must take the biscuit, or whatever a sludge works does take.

Wastewater sludge (and I do not think it need be so long as

John Mulhern suggests on January 16), additional terminal space at Heathrow and Gatwick is needed to reduce what is increasingly becoming intolerable congestion at peak periods, while Stansted's excellence, existing runway will contain for quite some years the less pressing demands of additional aircraft movements.

As for Maplin, that remote and inaccessible site would have been environmentally most damaging as an airport, while aeronautically dangerous and financially disastrous, which makes us back to the double the travel and energy costs for access compared with any other potential location.

In Sir Colin's phrase, "in Heaven's name, why cannot" he and those who follow his lead, get the message as well expressed in your leading article, Sir, on January 10: "It has become accepted wisdom that the dominant social culture in this country places less worth on commerce and industry than is the case in other industrial countries", which takes us back to the wise words of Mr Kenneth Adams in an address at St George's House in 1974: "When people are unable to recognize the necessity, value and indeed the virtue of the principal activities by which their community secures its living and which they are unable to affirm and celebrate those activities, they face a major ethical dilemma which will be a cause of deep, if unrecognized, malaise among them."

"They will be unable to say 'Yes' to their own future because they do not say 'Yes' to the activities on which that future depends." Yours faithfully,
PETER MASEFIELD,
Roxhill,
Doods Way,
Reigate,
Surrey,
January 16.

Police and the public

From the Chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality

Sir, I welcome your leading article "The police protest too much" on January 14.

We in the Commission for Racial Equality are among those who, in your words, are not "antagonistic towards the police" but "want to see a respected and effective police force" in the eyes of all sections of the community.

The police have a difficult task, needing particular sensitivity in multi-racial urban areas, and the highest standards are expected of them. We acknowledge the increasing effort they are putting into community relations and the progress made in various parts of the country.

Nevertheless we have felt bound to criticize the police (just as we accept that they may and do criticize people working in race relations) when we think there is genuine cause for concern. As examples, the "sus" law is apparently being over-used by some police officers in parts of London, and this calls for urgent attention both by the police and by the Government; and the police must, in our view, take some of the blame for the violence and the casualties in the riots last April.

Problems of law enforcement demand a full and serious discussion, but this is made harder if the police overreact even to responsible and constructive criticism. As I have often said to police officers, their reputation is so high

among most of the population that they have no need to be hyper-defensive. If the police were reader to say "Yes" to the activities on which that future depends."

Yours faithfully,
DAVID LANE,
Edin House,
10-12 Abington Street, SW1,
January 15.

A tower opposite the Tate

From Mr Alfred A. Wood

Sir, Will we never learn that London is a unique and sensitive city and that, above all, among the great capitals of Europe, does not seem to be profiting from previous unfortunate experience with high buildings as the Shell tower or the three inelegant structures of Marsham Street (housing in splendid Gibberian irony the Department of Environment) have been heeded?

There should be an accepted high buildings policy for sensitive areas of the capital (and they are legion), which could obviate the need for elaborate and expensive public inquiries to advise the Secretary of State for the Environment as to what civilized standards should be.

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED A. WOOD,
County Planner,
West Midlands County Council,
County Hall,
1 Lancaster Circus,
Queensway,
Birmingham.

Impact of the steel dispute

From Mr Roy Grantham

Sir, If the steel dispute continues we shall soon see its impact on the engineering and associated industries with the consequence of exports and increased support. Experience shows that once export markets are lost, or distributors turn to imports to supply the home market, the results are felt for months but for years. Already employers in a number of major companies are expressing their grave concern at the future of their organization and their ability in future to compete in home and export markets.

Apart from the problems within the steel industry, such as the failure to invest under government enterprise, the division of investment by the Macmillan Government, the late investment in the new plant when inflation was high, the general economic policy of the Government has a marked effect upon steel and all other manufacturing industries competing in home and export markets. The Finance Director of RHP Beating stated in *Financial Weekly*:

"I, and several other industrialists, believe that the exchange rate is far too high. If the policy of keeping the pound strong does not work out we could be heading for disaster in two to three years. Our exchange rate is ludicrous; you have to be operating in an area with a strong competitive edge to match products and prices against importing countries."

That value of the pound at 15 to 20 per cent above its true level, were it not an old-producing country, imposes a tax on all our productive industries. The Government should take urgent steps to reduce the value of the pound or should accept the obligation to provide manufacturing industry with financial resources to offset the burdens that overvalued sterling and high interest rates impose.

The Government should pursue a policy of securing coke and coal subsidies from the EEC. If the steel industry were under private ownership it would have written off a great deal of its capitalization in order to survive. The Government should be prepared to write off at least £1,000 of BSC capital in order to enable it to compete more effectively. This would enable it to resolve the current dispute on a basis that does not impact the workers in the industry to bear all the costs of past and present misjudgments by governments and the management of BSC alike.

BL is faced with a similar creak in capacity. Other motor car manufacturers and suppliers all suffer immensely from the current level of the pound. If BL was given capital reconstruction on the same kind of basis and consideration was given to the problems of other motor manufacturers and suppliers who have received Government loans, then our prospects in this vital industry would be one of men wealth generators upon which all other industries depend would be significantly improved.

These steps to tackle the problem of coke and coal, the problem of steel, which is a basic material for so many industries, and assistance to our largest manufacturing industry would, in a limited way, go a substantial way to offsetting the worst effects on our economy of the Government's inability to bring down the value of sterling.

The alternative is further loss of markets at home and abroad not only through the steel dispute but through economic policies which cripple manufacturing industry.

It took the Dutch 10 years to diagnose "Dutch disease". How long will this country suffer the loss of industry and jobs before we diagnose some complaint? Yours faithfully,
ROY A. GRANTHAM,
General Secretary,
Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff,
22 Worpole Road, SW19,
January 15.

From Mr Peter Lister

Sir, The Government has decided, and officially announced, that over the next three years consumers will pay a three-plus-plus-10 per cent more for their gas and electricity—plus 5 per cent more for their electricity.

The Secretary for Energy admits that the gas increases are appreciably higher than those sought by the companies.

Both these industries are state-owned. Would Mrs Thatcher care to explain to the country how her Government's arbitrary decision in this matter equates with her much-publicized posture of "non-intervention" in the national strike of the state-owned steel industry? Yours truly,
PETER LISTER,
18 Rectory Close,
Long Ditton,
Surrey.

Churches and VAT

From the Archbishop of Northolt

Sir, March 25—Enfranchisement and Budget Day. Can both Archbishop and Chancellor announce the end of VAT on churches? Yours faithfully,
ROY SOUTHWELL,
Gayton Lodge,
71 Gayton Road,
Harrow, Middlesex,
January 18.

Orphan's prayer

From Mr M. St Aubyn

Sir, It was my childhood belief that I was born in Slough, Buckinghamshire, and that house was in Redditch, Worcestershire. Once secure in adulthood, I was allowed to know that in fact my birthplace was in Berkshire and that I had been brought up somewhere called Hereford and Worcester.

You have completed the woe of a gazetteer's orphan by writing (January 12) of "Redditch-Bromsgrove". I know Bromsgrove is a fine town as well, but please say you didn't mean it. Yours faithfully,
MIKE ST AUBYN,
55 Evesham Road, N11.

THE MIRAGE OF COMPARABILITY

The National Water Council has got itself into an exemplary fix in its negotiations over pay, which resume this week. All the major groups of manual workers in the industry have now declared their readiness to take industrial action rather than accept an offer of 13 per cent, and union leaders have begun to describe with gusto the possible effects of an all-out strike on the comfort and even health of the community. It is not likely in practice that the consequences would immediately be as drastic as they imply—that would depend on the weather and on the attitude of other workers to attempts to maintain supplies with military help. In a national agreement in 1977 both sides promised to make every effort not to prejudice public health in a dispute, and it is possible, in spite of the statements that have been made, that this may be of some influence on the conduct of a dispute.

The argument is about pay comparisons. The main water workers' union amalgamated a few years ago with the General and Municipal Workers' Union, which includes many gas and electricity workers. The idea arose that comparable rates of pay should exist in all three industries supplying a staple commodity on an integrated monopolistic basis. The principle was conceded, a joint study carried out, and agreement reached

on the size of the gap. Then came the problem of implementation. The water industry, unlike the other two, derives its revenue from charges based on ratable values (not cushioned as local authority rates are by the effects of rate support grant), so that consumers are unable to save on cost by cutting down on consumption. This inflexibility makes it difficult to increase charges freely to meet wage costs, and the industry is therefore in no position to give an increase based on full comparability right away. The council made an offer which was actually smaller than what had already been offered to gas workers, and hopefully asserted that this took account of comparability.

The indignation of the employees was not unnatural. An offer frankly admitting that comparability could not be achieved at once and proposing some kind of phasing arrangement might have been better received, and may still provide a solution. The wider lesson of the affair is to demonstrate the pitfalls that lie in the way of attempts to base wage settlements on the idea of comparability. A great many factors bear upon both sides in any argument about wages, and obviously the rate paid for similar work in other industries or other parts of the country is one of them. It is tempting to suppose that through the use of such comparisons a

means may be evolved of fixing a rate that is fair and uncontroversial. This aspiration lies behind the efforts of the Clegg commission to take the pay of sensitive categories like nurses and dustmen "out of politics" by setting up a network of reference points once and for all.

The hope is a vain one. In practice there are so many imponderables involved that unambiguous results never appear. In comparisons between public and private sectors, arbitrary weight has to be given to job security, indexation of pensions and so on. There is always pressure to bring rates up to the level of the group that is doing best. The Government has acknowledged this inflationary trend in its plans to repeal the enactments of 1975 which gave a kind of statutory sanction to comparability bargaining, though it did not withhold its blessing from Clegg.

Any concept of a natural level of pay in any company or industry must reflect the ability of the employer to pay, and the ease or otherwise of finding people to work at a given rate, as well as comparisons with other categories. Comparability bargaining offers no escape from that weighing of actual interests in particular cases which is the essence of wage bargaining; and as the water industry shows, it is a mirage which can create conflict rather than bypass it.

David Wood

Importance of being Mrs Thatcher

Mrs Thatcher's strongest political asset as Prime Minister, or formerly as a member of Mr Heath's front bench team, has been that she appeared to be consistent. Her political ideas and reflexes looked all of one piece, and she has developed a formidable skill in presenting herself as a leader who remains true to herself from one day to another, one crisis to another, and one subject to another. Her critics damn the characteristic as rigidity. Her friends, in and outside Westminster, bless her for having no truck with pragmatism, so that she always knows where she intuitively stands.

That explains why so many Conservative politicians were shocked by last week's announcement from Mr David Howell, Energy Secretary, that for the next three years domestic gas prices would rise annually by 10 per cent above the going rate of inflation, on the issue of the Conservative government's drive to deep conviction. It is that if the proposal had been made by the Energy Secretary in Mr Heath's Cabinet of 1970-74, Mrs Thatcher would have nagged and nagged until a proper explanation for the policy had been offered. Almost certainly she would have condemned it as unwarrantable government intervention in commercial decisions of a rationalized board, and an equally unwarrantable distortion of free market economics and of consumer choice.

She would have thundered with feminine feeling about the consequences for her constituents, especially the aged and the owner-occupied who had borrowed or spent capital to follow the best market and convert to North Sea gas. She would have been in close harmony with the Conservative back-

benchers who in 1975 elected her party leader.

The Cabinet decision to tax domestic gas, which sounded inconsistent with Mrs Thatcher's known philosophy and practice, and is not seen even by some devout Conservatives to square with the rhetoric and flavour of the 1979 general election manifesto, nor is it only enough to satisfy Conservative wonder how a 17 per cent mortgage rate can be made to fit into proposals for a property-owning democracy and the cut-price sale of council houses. Hence, a growing (I believe misplaced) fear that in less than a year Mrs Thatcher, the great opponent of U-turns, begins to retreat into pragmatism, as Mr Heath did, in the attempt to contain inflation.

There need be little doubt that if Mrs Thatcher herself had made the case for the gas price increase, in terms of reducing demands on tax and conserving national fuel supplies, she would have carried the day easily and left her rank and file reasonably content. Mr Howell failed to convince the House 1922 backbenchers, or anybody who read *Harvard* and newspaper reports. As so often in politics, whether policies are good or bad, the presentation went wrong; and only the appearance of Mr Howell on the benign Jimmy Young radio show may hope to start a recovery.

No wonder, as the practical problems of governing intensify, Mrs Thatcher and all who soldier along with her are increasingly preoccupied with the question of educating a democracy to the point where it understands that governments need time, that sometimes the quickest way to Birmingham is by way of Beachey Head, and that manifestos, blackboards and whiteboards finish up rather grey.

Yet it is clearly important to the Government and whole Conservative Party that Mrs Thatcher should keep intact her persona of a clear-headed woman who will not make tactical moves that put her grand strategy in the shade. If the *Daily Telegraph* last week proves reliable, she is doing rather well.

True, Labour was shown to lead by 9 per cent between January 9-14, and if the party could quieten down, consolidate on a new

moderate-looking leader to fight the next election, and show some signs of ability to govern its own affairs as well as the country, the lead might be markedly greater. Nevertheless, according to Gallup, Conservatives are still thought, eight months after the general election, to have both the best overall policies and the best leaders.

Such a verdict, however unsatisfactory it proves to be, must be reckoned a remarkable tribute to some of the ministers in Mrs Thatcher's administration. After all, for 11 out of the 15 years since 1964 two Labour prime ministers and members of their governments have had the share of public attention with all the benefits that brings in immediate public recognition and authority. Meanwhile, the Conservatives threw out their established party leader and gambled by bringing in an untried successor, the woman politician who had not cut much of a public figure until 1975.

Mrs Thatcher herself must be given the main credit, for in the end the Prime Minister, with his or her special share of the limelight, determines any view made about the quality and ability of the government. If a prime minister fails, then all fail, and the 1922 Committee's instinct in early 1975 to risk the choice of the first woman leader appears to have been fully vindicated by events.

But still, looking at Gallup, we must wonder which other Conservative ministers have created the popular impression of an ability that surpasses Labour ministers who until last May were household names. How did the unknowns of the Thatcher team take over public esteem from James Callaghan, Denis Healey, Anthony Wedgwood Benn, and the rest?

The answer can only be that Lord Carrington's labours as Foreign Secretary have lately done the Government's image a lot of good; that James Prior looks and sounds like the most level-headed chap in politics; and that John Nott makes everybody in his audience feel they are as clever as he is. The others still have to make their mark. That is the importance for Conservatives of Mrs Thatcher always sounding true to herself.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

مكتبة الأعمال

Stock markets
FT Ind 459.8
FT Gils 68.53

Sterling
\$2.2855
Index 71.9

Dollar
Index 84.7

Gold
\$835 an ounce

3-month money
Inter-bank 16 1/4 to 17 1/4
Euro-\$ 14 1/2 to 14 3/4
(Friday's close)

IN BRIEF

New service helps NFC offshoot into profit

National Carriers, once the lame duck of the National Freight Corporation which the Government proposed to sell off to the private sector, is riding to prosperity on the back of highly specialised diversifications.

Profit this year is expected to beat last year's £2.5m once it has the unenviable record of a £25m loss on a £25m turnover. A substantial contribution to profits has come from the new Contract Services Division which not only hires lorries but entire transport departments to meet customer requirements, including management and warehousing if required.

US price fixing case

La Fayette Corporation of Wood Ridge, New Jersey, and Societa Nazionale dei Poudres et Explosifs de Paris are being sued by the United States Justice Department in the Federal Court at Newark, New Jersey. An injunction is being sought prohibiting them from maintaining or renewing agreements fixing the price of imported industrial nitrocellulose.

Airfix workers meet

The 940 employees, mostly women, occupying the Meccano plant on the Edge Hill industrial estate at Liverpool, have been called to a meeting at the plant this morning where union officials and senior shop stewards will report on the recent talks in London with the board of Airfix.

Singapore rate rise

United Overseas Bank one of Singapore's Big Four local banks, has raised its prime rate to 9.75 per cent from 9.5 per cent effective today. Ching Kheaw Bank and Lee Wah Bank, both affiliates of UOB did likewise.

Korean oil finance

Fourteen foreign banks have signed a \$200m (about £88m) loan agreement in Seoul to help finance Honam Oil Company's expansion project. Honam is a 50-50 joint venture between Citicor Petroleum of the United States and Lucky Limited of Korea.

Credit for Zambia

The European Investment Bank has announced in Luxembourg that it will lend up to 2.8m Units of Account (about £860,000) for modernising cement works near Lusaka, for a maximum of 20 years at 2 per cent interest.

£4m sewage contract

John Lasing Construction has won a £4m contract by the Yorkshire Water Authority to carry out work on a section of the Eskott sewage treatment plant which serves Bradford and the surrounding area.

Gas from coal plant

Shell Nederland is planning to build a coal gasification plant with an intake of coal of 1,000 tonnes a day to demonstrate that a system is economically and technically feasible.

Volkswagen for Peru

Peru has accepted a bid by Volkswagenwerk to manufacture a car and a five-to-six tonne lorry for the five-nation Andean Pact Group, Sr Jorge du Bois, the industry minister said in Lima.

Sindona trial delay

The scheduled trial of Signor Michele Sindona in New York has been delayed for at least a week because prosecution witnesses in Italy are reluctant to travel to the United States to testify.

New RTSA chairman

Mr John Wilcox, north-west Europe area director for the International Wool Secretariat, is to become chairman of the Retail Trading Standards Association. He succeeds Mr Gavin Fisher, formerly of Courtauld.

CBI proposes a seven-point plan to create 2.5m jobs in decade

By Edward Townsend

Britain must create at least 2.5m new jobs in the next decade to bring unemployment down to the million mark the Confederation of British Industry says. This can only be done if the issues are faced with resolve.

In a discussion document published today the CBI says that the scale of future unemployment in Britain will be higher and the country's ability to ease the social problem will be reduced if we are uncompetitive in world markets.

"The evidence is overwhelming that by and large we use labour inefficiently; that inefficiency threatens jobs now and in the future; and that unless major changes are achieved—changes in attitudes as much as changes in effort or professional skills—we are sowing the seeds for growing unemployment and social divisiveness in the years ahead."

The CBI, stressing the important role to be played by new technology in industry, urges the Government, employers and trade unions to formulate a joint approach towards solving the problem of unemployment. It lays down a seven-point programme of action, including a call on business to adopt a more efficient method to make an efficient market economy more acceptable socially.

"Unless our mixed economy shows that it cares about people as individuals, and not just as units of labour or potential customers, it may produce an affluent society, but it will not produce a just one."

The CBI believes its approach to the impact of new technology is similar to that of the Trades Union Congress. But it feels there is one significant divergence of view; it sees the TUC as wishing to use new technology as a means of expanding collective bargaining and moving towards a more working week, while the CBI views its acceptance as part of the drive to remain competitive.

"The document says that to achieve greater international competitiveness and productivity will require action that will increase unemployment in the short term as the economy levels are reduced or the emphasis of tax and public expenditure is shifted."

"If this essentially transitional period is to be successfully negotiated, and the major improvements which are

needed to Britain's competitiveness achieved, it is vital that employers and managers show that they are not unaware of, and indeed share the concerns of their employees about jobs in the future."

Clearly the CBI is not in favour of a shorter working week in industry and would prefer to consider hours as part of an annual time budget in a bid to achieve maximum flexibility throughout the year, including holiday provision.

"If, for instance, some of the more pessimistic forecasts (about unemployment) proved accurate, it would be necessary to consider seriously the introduction of paid subsidised so that unemployment as well as work was shared or rotated. Theoretically, a six-month sub-subsidy for everyone once in five years, or 12 months every 10 years, would remove 10 per cent of the working population from the labour market."

Any move to reduce the hours of manual workers must be seen as part of the progress towards single status employment conditions and a joint approach to company and plant level would help.

"Without it the real danger is that sooner or later bargaining pressures will force through reductions in hours—perhaps after damaging industrial disputes—which will make British trade and industry less competitive and thus, in time, make the unemployment situation worse."

The document has already been condemned by the Equal Pay and Opportunity Campaign (EPOC) which said that the CBI had ignored the threat of new technology on women's jobs.

In a statement issued early today EPOC said: "The CBI admits that micro-electronics will have an uneven effect, and that hardest hit will be secretarial and clerical work, the service industries and routine assembly work, but it fails to point out that these threatened jobs are primarily women's jobs."

EPOC is to publish its own report on the subject and said as a result of its studies it found that most companies had their heads in the sand and were not monitoring the impact of the changes and were unable to give statistics on job losses or gains.

"Jobs-facing the future, a CBI staff discussion document, CBI, 25 Tottill Street, London, E3."

Management, page 17

Japan takes half of new ship orders

By Peter Hill

Industrial order Japan's shipbuilders won orders for 236 ships for foreign owners last year totalling nearly 5.5 million tons gross. This was equivalent to about one-third of all foreign orders estimated to have been taken throughout the world last year.

Shipbuilding experts believe that the worst of the shipbuilding industry's difficulties may be over.

Overall, new orders gained last year by the world's shipyards grew at between 15-16 million tons gross. Although this represents a marked improvement on the levels of a year earlier, it is still substantially below the level of the industry's capacity despite the restrictions which have taken place over the past two years.

Japan's export orders last year were more than double the volume of export contracts taken in the previous year and, together with domestic orders, the Japanese yards are estimated to have secured about 50 per cent of all the orders placed last year.

According to the Japan Ship Exporters' Association, they took orders for 45 ships totalling over more than 1 million tons gross during December alone, which, significantly, was very close to the monthly average of foreign orders obtained by Japanese yards in the peak year of 1965.

Orders for bulk carriers accounted for just over 50 per cent of the orders placed with Japan by foreign owners last month. Orders were also placed for 20 tankers.

New interest rates boost National Savings inflow

By Margaret Stone

The full impact of the improved National Savings terms announced in the November economic package was felt in December when pensioners and regular savers flocked to put their money into indexed-linked securities.

A record £150.6m was invested in the indexed-linked Retirement Issue of National Savings Certificates, the so-called "Granny Bonds", following the increase in the maximum holding from £700 to £1,200 at the beginning of the month.

It must have been fears of rising inflation alone which triggered off the big response for indexed-linked Save-As-You-Earn contracts where net receipts were £25.5m in December.

The higher interest rate of

15 per cent which took effect this month failed to have much impact on National Savings Bank investment account where there was a modest outflow of £1.4m in December. A much larger outflow of £27.2m, however, was experienced by the conventional issue of National Savings Bonds of £11.4m in December. The Government's decision to withdraw permanently bonds from the National Savings repertoire.

The net increase in December of £130.7m brings the total sum invested in National Savings to £12,520.4m compared with £10,940.4m this time last year.

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£1.4m in December. A much

larger outflow of £27.2m, how-

ever, was experienced by the

conventional issue of National

Savings Bonds of £11.4m in Decem-

ber. The Government's decision to

withdraw permanently bonds from

the National Savings repertoire.

The net increase in December

of £130.7m brings the total sum

invested in National Savings to

£12,520.4m compared with

£10,

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Farmland investment as prices start to fall

The price of agricultural land has been falling. According to figures from the Ministry of Agriculture, the average price per hectare has dropped from £4,344 in the quarter from May-July, to £4,002 in the three months to November, and there are no signs yet of a reversal in the trend.

Even after this setback, however, anyone going out to buy arable land as an investment is going to be lucky to get it on a yield of much over 3 per cent; so it could be argued that the correction is long overdue, and has further to go. After all, with gilts selling on running yields of over 14 per cent, and ordinary shares yielding over 6 per cent on average, the income on arable land is going to have to rise very sharply to justify a purchase on such a return.

This is, of course, exactly what the income on arable land has been doing over the past three to four years, with rentals increasing by around 18 per cent per annum compound, in the wake of a sharp rise in farm profitability.

In part that increase in profitability arose from the benefits of entry to the EEC—once-and-for-all benefits, now reflected in the adjustment of rents. Any future increases in profitability are, in consequence, likely to be more moderate; and this year round, because of big increases in costs and a poor outlook on prices, it looks as though profits will, if anything, decline.

With most farms let on three-year reviews, that decline is not likely to be mirrored in rental levels; but they certainly will not increase by as much as they have in the past few years.

But, if some of the glamour has gone out of farmland as an investment, that doesn't necessarily mean there is or will be a wholesale flight from the land. Because the market is very narrow, most institutional buyers have been well aware that purchases had to be made on a longer-term view; and though they may not be buying now, there is no sign they are selling.

Indeed, if interest rates in general were to fall in the wake of the Budget, thereby cutting both the farmers' costs and the relative attractions of other investments, the market might very well pick up again. For as aficionados Hill Samuel point out, this is one industry at which the British can be relied upon to succeed.

Audit fees

Battles to come

Audit fees may, to the average shareholder, look like a relatively minor item in a company's expenditure; and it is extremely rare to hear them queried. The auditors, however, claim that they are a matter of particular sensitivity, especially at a time when profits are under pressure. So the coming months are likely to see a few battles royal, though they will in all probability be battles behind the scenes.

The problem really arises, according to the senior partner of one of the "big eight" accountants, not so much when prices are rising fast—because companies expect then to see their bills rising by a commensurate amount, and are gratified to find them swollen by rather less—as when price rises are moderating.

Putting in a bill which reflects a year of double digit inflation, six months after the year-end, can cause problems if price rises of less than 10 per cent have become the norm in the meantime—even if the auditors sent in their estimates before they sent their staff.

The argument is an odd one, though, particularly from a member of the big eight. After all, no company admits to changing its auditors because they charge too much (they are officially in business to guard, not the interests of the managers, but those of the shareholders who employ them); and it is very rare indeed for a company to make the change from one of the big eight, on any pretext other than a takeover.

Of course that great middle ground in the accountancy profession, for which the big eight keep prophesying degeneration and eventual dissolution, is likely to be restrained in its pricing policies by competition—competition from the big eight themselves. But while the latter continue to offer a sophisticated service, a name—and expertise in liquidations—there is no real reason to suppose that any of them will suffer, like their customers, from the hard times ahead.

Issues

A first for Felixstowe

Stockbrokers Seymour, Pierce have come up with a unique fixed interest investment in the shape of a £6.5m issue of 9½ per cent cumulative redeemable preference stock 1984 for Felixstowe Dock and Railway.

Similar issues are of course two a penny for water companies but this is the first time an ordinary company has attempted to test the appetite of institutional investors for this sort of paper.

In this case there is a further complication of the chequered history of other dock companies and this issue has had to be pitched around a point higher than a water company could have got away with even though Felixstowe has a good profits record and there is a copper-bottomed guarantee from its parent European Ferries.

The gross yield on the issue price of 13.84 per cent (and a redemption yield of 14.13 per cent) will not of course drag the private investor away from the gilt-edged market. But for corporate concerns which can gross up this income as franked investment—allowing them to pay net dividends on their own capital tax-free—the flat yield rises to 20.19 per cent. With yields like that available, what attractions has the equity market?

● The reopening of the Eurosterling Bond market after a six months' gap has once again been carefully timed to cash in on foreign buying of sterling, most particularly by those investors who prefer the gross payment of interest on a bearer Eurobond to the aggravation of recovering tax from net-paid gilts. If market rumour is to be believed there are at least one or two more wood-bus issues waiting in the wings.

Caution is in order, however. The Eurosterling market is not about to emerge as a major new force in the international financing world. Citicorp's present £50m 10-year issue will, by general consent, mop up much of the available liquidity in what is still a small market. The volatility of secondary market prices is one measure of this.

The long-term constraint upon the growth of the Eurosterling market is that it offers little appeal to the natural buyers of sterling bonds, the British. Thanks to the attractions implicit in the anonymity of a gross paid Eurobond, Citicorp is securing its funds at 13½ per cent, a full half point or more below a comparable dated gilt. This is an unacceptable differential to most United Kingdom institutions.

Indeed, it is questionable how much institutional appetite there is anywhere. The traditional interest in Eurosterling issues has come from the continental retail market, and most big investors still look to gilts.

Retail demand is certainly not lacking, but there are few signs at this stage that Citicorp's issue will be anything like the sell-out that GEC's Eurosterling deal was last July.

In search of new system of monetary control

John Whitmore



'It is vital to remember that the monetary control mechanism cannot, in itself, provide a magic solution for restraining monetary growth'—Mr Nigel Lawson (left), Financial Secretary to the Treasury

For most of us, the great debate about money is a simple one. We want a lot more; the Government says that we should make do with a good deal less.

There is, of course, a rather more esoteric economic debate taking place on money, namely on the virtues, or otherwise, of monetarism—the fashionable slant being to ask: "Is monetarism enough?"

Not to be forgotten, however, is the very much more practical debate on the appropriate methods of achieving monetary control. It is a debate that should come to a head over the next couple of months, once the Government has released—probably by the middle of February—its promised consultative paper on possible ways of improving the techniques of monetary control.

Why, though, does the present system need improving? Jokes about competition and credit control (and its subsequent modifications) failing to control credit, and finally stifling banking competition into the bargain, are easy to make. The fact of the matter is that the system was never designed for the precision of monetary control now demanded by monetary policy.

It has too many technical weaknesses. It is capable of leading to too many complexities and distortions; it fails to provide the authorities with the scope for the speed and decisiveness of response that they require.

Finally, the "corset" has been rendered obsolete as a method of control by last October's abolition of exchange controls.

When looking for an improved system of monetary control, it is vital, as Nigel Lawson, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, reminded us in a City speech last Friday, to remember that the monetary control mechanism is a magic solution for restraining monetary growth.

No system will work if it is asked to work against impossible odds. In other words, the first priority for any government seeking to control expansion of the money supply must be to adopt a fiscal policy that is consistent with its monetary policy.

Mr Lawson might have added that, even in the appropriate economic policy environment, a monetary control system will only work as well as those in charge allow it to. One criticism of monetary control during the seventies has been that the system may have been, the operators of the system have all too often prevented it from working as effectively as it might.

The case of this criticism is that politicians have tended to allow interest rates to be raised too late in the day, and that the Bank of England, which handles the sales of gilt-edged securities that remove deposits at the banks plus notes and coins held by the private sector—as its leading measure of money.

But there is certainly a case, particularly in the wake of the abolition of exchange controls, for considering other definitions of the money stock. A measure which includes residential deposits in foreign currency.

There is also a case for having more than one measure of money. For one of the things that has become apparent during the years of sterling M3 targets, and which is now known as Goodhart's Law (after the Bank's chief adviser on monetary policy), is that once you choose a single target, traditional relationships tend to break down and the target ceases to become a useful measure.

Among the more favoured measures advocated by monetary economists are those that include private sector holdings of Treasury bills (which can easily be converted into cash if the overall monetary base is diverging too far from target). It all looks simple enough. There are, however, several differences of opinion on what money) and building society deposits, which are now larger than personal sector deposits at the clearing banks.

When it comes to finding a new mechanism for the banking system, the quest is for one which is relatively simple, as little prone to distortion as possible, capable of being monitored with ease and immediacy, and unlikely to impede banking competition or lead to the credit creation process either being driven out of the banking system or offshore.

The increasingly mooted answer, though still not regarded with obvious keenness in some official circles, is some form of monetary ratio system. The key element in this system is cash, or more precisely, the banks' deposits with the central bank and their own holdings of notes and coins. This becomes what is known as the monetary base and is, in the view of many advocates of reform, what the authorities should seek to control.

Control is supposed to flow in such a system, first through the banks' being required to maintain a set ratio between their total (eligible) assets and their individual cash bases and, secondly, through the central bank taking appropriate action exactly should constitute the monetary base, not to mention differences of opinion on the appropriate degree of rigidity for such a system, the role of the central bank as lender of last resort and, indeed, even, whether or not the monetary base should be a published monetary target.

If we do emerge with some workable proposition for a monetary base system, however, the remaining question will then be the determination of the authorities to make it work. Those who hold hardest to the view that control of the quantity of money in the economy is all important, quite logically insist that the authorities cannot also try to determine the price of money.

Whether the authorities are in fact ready to cede that control entirely remains to be seen, just as it remains to be seen how far banking and financial market operators will be prepared to support change once the debate heats up.

Scotland—playing pneumonia to England's chill

Slippage may menacingly describe earthquakes or economic performance, and there has been some of each recently between England and Scotland. Most people slept through the terrestrial shudder that rattled the borders at Christmas; many more are awake to the intellectual shift of figures in recent months and the gloom-laden forecasts which show Scotland returning to the old role of playing pneumonia to England's chill.

The slippage is particularly depressing because it comes after a lengthy period when the main economic indicators showed consistent improvement north of the border.

Oil was the catalyst for this improvement helping the United Kingdom by tipping the balance of payments but aiding

completed Scotland's old scars reopened. The picture clouded further when, for the sake of neat bookkeeping, oil production was put in a specially created category called the North Sea region and included in the United Kingdom index.

Some sectors of heavy industry became more and more outdated, the slump in shipbuilding dragged the economy further down, and then last year the big closures started to happen.

Some of the largest Scottish employers began to buckle at the knees. Singer of Clydebank laid off 4,800 during the year, Massey-Ferguson 1,500, Govan Shipbuilders 1,100, BSR East Kilbride 1,000, and Chrysler, Linwood—now Talbot—1,250.

Another 17 big companies laid off between 200 and 900 men each, bringing the total for a grim decade to 100,000. The index of industrial production in Scotland, which in 1976 actually overtook the United Kingdom average—curved downwards.

The forecast of the Fraser of Allender Institute at Strathclyde University has proved too optimistic over recent months with unemployment worsening more rapidly than anticipated. Predictions for the next five years are even gloomier, with a stagnant economy and unemployment rising by half again.

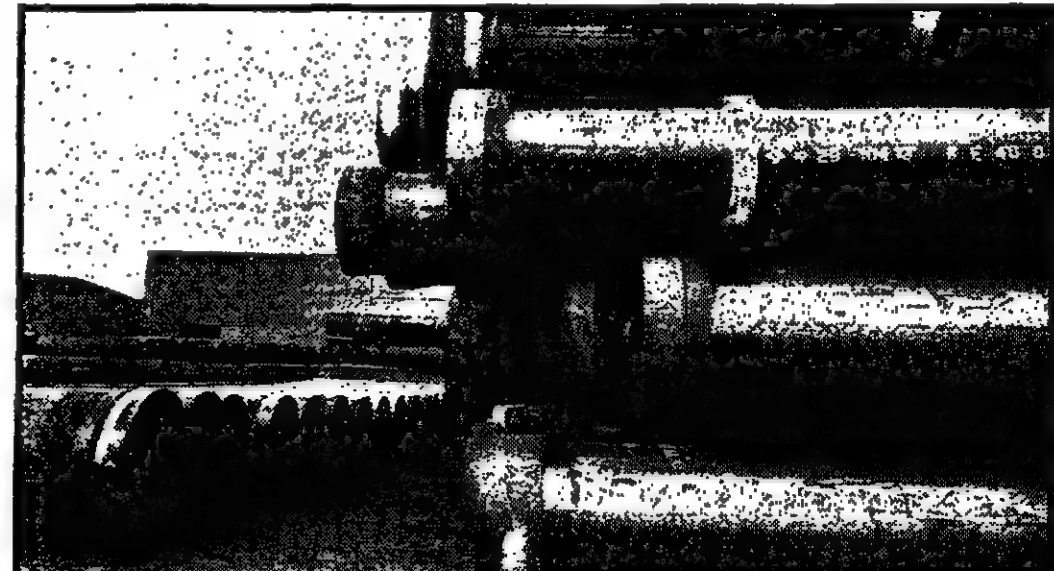
The Confederation of British Industry in Scotland forecasts a stable recession with a fall in investment and rise in unemployment. The Scottish Council (Development and Industry) survey of manufactur-

Ronald Faux

Scotland by generating some 60,000 jobs—which are more than are left in either shipbuilding or steel. The transfusing shock ran right through the economy, but was not enough to rebuild the foundations of Scottish heavy industry.

The multi-national mega-bolstered Britain in 1978 was consumer led, and so was less beneficial to Scotland, and with oil development languishing on a plateau, as exploration declined and production began, the momentum slowed.

There were orders in the shipyards and engineering workshops, but as these were



"Scotland's hopes seem still to lie at the bottom of the North Sea"—an offshore plant at Bridge of Don, Aberdeenshire.

ing companies is expecting a further net reduction of 1,750 jobs in the near future which would push unemployment from 7.9 per cent to 9 per cent.

None of the forecasts sees any light on the economic horizon before 1982, and then only a modest gleam. The crucial exporting industries are given very hopeful prospects and the construction industry, a big employer in Scotland, faces a grim future chiefly because many capital programmes are about to feel the Government's axe.

For the Scottish Development Agency the Government's principal job winner, the task is daunting. The weakness of the dollar and the strength of the pound, the sharp move away from industries which employ large numbers towards industries that employ automatic processes, all compound, Scotland's economic problems—the dwindling number of jobs.

The competition to attract overseas companies to Scotland is fierce, with America a prime target. United States companies have already invested £200m establishing manufacturing satellites in Scotland. These companies have found Scotland a useful springboard for Middle East, European and African markets particularly in oil-related work.

Government help has been useful but no panacea. The SDA was given powerful funding to help regenerate the Scottish economy, but it quickly discovered that this is easier for politicians to talk about than for companies, in which they had a stake, to translate into profitable ventures. Five of its subsidiary or associated companies have closed down and last year the investment portfolio of the agency showed a loss of more than £1.5m.

Trade unions are holding their collective breath over the possible effects of the steelworkers' strike on vulnerable firms—many of which, once closed will never reopen.

With such grim news on land, Scotland's hopes seem still to lie at the bottom of the North Sea. Orders have been gone to five oil platform yards, and the North Sea is seeking itself for another burst of activity.

Events in the Middle East make the North Sea more attractive. Political stability outweighs the inconvenience of plumbing the sea bed. If there is indeed an increase in the pace of the search for oil, Scotland may get another chance to make some of the essential changes in its basic industrial structure.

But the short-term looks bad. Little has been heard about the plans to divert Civil Service jobs to Scotland. A man who holds himself as living proof that civil servants are indeed devolving northwards was told by a check by a sceptical Glaswegian, recently, and told: "It's no you we want, sunshine, it's your job." Orpington and Cheam stand easy.

Business Diary profile: Sir Nigel and the CAA

Sir Nigel Foulkes (he likes to hear it pronounced "folks" rather than "foolkes"), which could be construed as having two lower-case fs and as being touch aristocratic) is chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority.

This is the licensing authority for the airline industry, and decisions by the CAA about to take will set the course on which British civil aviation flies for some years to come.

The authority has before it applications from one group of independent airlines to take over 26 domestic United Kingdom routes which British Airways has given up as unprofitable, from other independents for permission to fly cheap-fare services into Europe, and from Laker, British Caledonian and Cathay Pacific for route rights between London and Hongkong.

He is not a heavy-handed man. A commercial hand is Sir Nigel's watchword—and has been since he took over the chair on a five-year contract in 1977. It is likely that some of the applicant airlines will not be dismayed.

Sir Nigel spent 25 years in the private sector before putting a toe into the world of aviation bureaucracy by taking the chairmanship of the British Airports Authority. His graphic phrases on that occasion seven years ago are still recalled when aviation buffs meet. "I'm not coming in like the sheriff of Tombstone with a gun on my hip," Sir Nigel said.

Since then he has proved a dab hand at memorable phrases, a few of which have passed into aviation lore. He

often talks about "flying wedges of passengers" when discussing airport congestion. Justifying priority at airports for scheduled aircraft over executive jets he put a lot of noses out of joint by inquiring why "peach-fed mandarins" should get the cream.

Sir Nigel's early style riled people at the BAA's imposing headquarters opposite the tradesmen's entrance to Buckingham Palace.

The big break came after just about five years, with Sir Nigel, a great believer in moving on and accepting new challenges, let it be known in Whitehall that if they could not find anything else for him to do, he would return to the private sector.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter had established the aviation authority from scratch and firmly held all the reins. Sir Nigel slipped into his chair and del-

egated like mad. Boyd-Carpenter had begun to make the authority less dependent on central funds to make up its deficit. Sir Nigel continued this work.

Sir Nigel has been unable to get it completely right. There are intractable problems with European air traffic control and the BAA's position in the land, but where control is possible a big turn-round in the authority's finances has been achieved.

Everybody at the CAA these days knows exactly what part of the operation is his or her responsibility, but Sir Nigel keeps a beady eye on the whole operation, even though his is a four-day-a-week brief. Friday is his "day off", but on that day whizz bangs are often loosed from the chairman's office. Nonetheless, he pursues his self-described role as a "professional manager".

He keeps up directorships with the Charterhouse Group, Stone Platt and the Belgian group Bekeert. Past directorships have included one at Boleyn, PE Consultants, Birfield International Nickel and Rank Xerox.

Sir Nigel is now 60, but looks much younger. He has been around the business world for a long time, but—despite a knighthood in the New Year honours list—he is not well-known outside his own line of business.

He will not give interviews to the newspapers, radio or even the all-powerful television unless he feels it is absolutely necessary to inform the public. During a dispute that disrupted air traffic control, he popped up a couple of times. Asked why he will not lay out

his wares, he says things like: "I'm not part of the entertainment industry".

Once a year, however, he does emerge—at the CAA report and accounts press conference. Here he gives a crisp résumé of what is happening, laced with his particular brand of salty aphorism.

The new Civil Aviation Bill gives the authority far greater powers than it has ever had, but there is no need for the aviation industry to fear wholesale change as a result. It is more likely that there will be a continuation of the quite liberal licensing which has been Sir Nigel's hallmark ever since he came in—to use his own words: "regulation with a light touch".

Just occasionally, Sir Nigel does rile the head of an airline. Ross Stainton, British Airways chairman, was not happy at being praised out of a couple of domestic routes in favour of the independents. Adam Thomson of British Caledonian was decidedly irked to be refused a service to Southern Rhodesia—British Airways won on that occasion.

There is little doubt that American deregulation, the Carter policy under which any airline can fly where it likes at any fare, is affecting the way the CAA thinks. Ironically, a side-effect of that policy is that the Civil Aeronautics Board, the CAA's opposite number in the United States, has instructions to wind issues up, there being nothing left to regulate. Could it happen here?

Arthur Reed



Regulation with a light touch: Sir Nigel Foulkes, Civil Aviation Authority chairman (right), Sir Freddie Laker of Laker Airways (left), followed by Ross Stainton (British Airways) and Adam Thomson (BCA).

Hull fights to stay afloat

There has seldom been a time in recent years when news of the fishing industry at the Port of Hull has been other than depressing. Today it is worse than ever. The fishing industry is in a critical situation to a point at which responsible, knowledgeable people are talking openly about the death of the deep sea fleet.

Indeed, Mr James Johnson, the West Hull MP, said at the weekend that if urgent steps were not taken, Hull would no longer be a fishing port in 12 months time. Earlier this month Mr Johnson chaired a crisis meeting to examine ways and means of stopping the fishing fleet simply wasting away.

The catching section of the industry is not the only group concerned. All facets of fish handling and processing are feeling the draught and all, including the big trade unions at Hull, were represented at the meeting. An ad hoc committee has been formed and heard Mr Johnson report that he has sent urgent letters to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food asking Mr Peter Walker, the minister, to receive a deputation from Hull.

The immediate problem at Hull is that there is about only one month left of the mackerel fishing season. Usually mackerel fishing lasts until the end of March.

Hull is Britain's freezer trawler port with between 22 and 25 of the big vessels operational. The North-east Arctic is the only fishing ground left for British distant water vessels and under normal circumstances they would finish mackerel fishing in March and sail for the best of the Arctic fishing from April to the end of June.

A substantial reduction in the permitted catch in that part of the world, however, has produced new problems. Last year

is being subsidised in one form or another and we simply cannot compete against other governments' subsidies", claims the BFF. These include subsidies for fuel oil, laying up and scrapping programmes, exploratory voyages to unfamiliar waters searching for unfamiliar species and even the promotion of fish.

With some bitterness the BFF points out that the exploratory voyages from EEC countries invariably turn out to be trips to catch familiar species in familiar waters. Britain plays the game and underakes genuine exploratory trips.

Another complaint of the British industry is that it has suffered more than any other EEC country from the reduction of fishing opportunities, and gained less by way of recompense than any other EEC country.

Estimates by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food based on evidence from international scientists, put the potential yield from EEC waters at 5.9 million tonnes a year at £9.49m. Of this Britain's own waters contribute 4.3 million tonnes worth £577m at last year's quayside prices.

Since the United Kingdom has so far been offered only 25 per cent of the total EEC catch (worth £237m), other EEC fishermen are being given a free gift of £340m worth of fish a year.

Mr Jonathan Watson-Hall, vice-president of the Hull Fishing Vessel Owners' Association and a member of the emergency committee, says the industry needs two things if it is to survive—financial assistance from the Government and, in the longer term, more fishing grounds for freezer trawlers to catch the kind of fish required.

Ronald Kershaw

MANAGEMENT

Creating the climate for improved productivity

The gist of the argument presented in the Confederation of British Industry in its discussion documents published today is that any solution to unemployment depends on an improvement in international competitiveness. But the argument is circular; international competitiveness depends on higher productivity, which in turn depends on more investment and improved efficiency; and that, to complete the depressing treadmill, depends on the ability to sell finished goods in an international marketplace.

What is refreshing is that the employers see a way of breaking into the circle, and that they accept responsibility for taking the initiative. The proposed entry point is at the return on investment stage, by way of higher efficiency.

The prime responsibility for improving productivity, the employers say, rests with management at all levels; and it is their task to improve management by making people work harder than on enabling them to work more effectively.

Unfortunately the managers who organize production—engineers, industrial technologists, production managers and the like—do not enjoy a particularly high status in Britain. They are on average less well-qualified, usually enjoy less authority, and are less well paid than their counterparts in Europe.

It would not be surprising if this combination of factors meant that production management attracted fewer able recruits in Britain than in France or West Germany. If this is a fairly general weakness in British manufacturing industry, it is a weakness senior management can and should correct, says the discussion paper.

Comparisons of productivity with European competitors

make depressing reading. Whatever index is used, and whatever its source, Britain usually comes at or near the bottom of the list. According to the attached table, compiled by the CBI from a variety of sources, including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, productivity in British manufacturing has grown at barely half the rate of that of our most important neighbours and competitors over the last 20 years or so.

The employers acknowledge that productivity of labour is only one aspect of an overall lack of competitiveness. Marketing, design, production engineering, delivery and after sales service may be equally or more important. But the reason we can begin to catch up with our competitors' levels of productivity, we are competing with one hand tied behind our back, they say.

Comparisons at industry and plant level have shown up some useful pointers for action. Surveys carried out by the National Economic Development Office have shown that interruptions to production, particularly in the motor industry, are an important reason for Britain's lower output per employee. While many of these interruptions are due to strikes, both in assembly plants and component suppliers, some are due to poor work planning, inadequate supplies, or technical breakdowns which could have been avoided by preventive maintenance.

Overmanning as such is by no means confined to blue collar areas. A study of chemical factories in Britain, the Netherlands, West Germany and France, showed that although there was little difference in the number of production workers, the British tended to have many more managerial and administrative staff as well

as maintenance workers. A tendency to a top heavy administration is borne out by the latest iron and steel industry figures, which showed that only 58 per cent of the total workforce were classified as manual workers, a proportion which compared unfavourably with other European countries, apart from France.

The discussion paper is designed as a launching pad for a joint action programme, through which employers, trade unions and government can establish broad agreement on the problems. The debate on the manpower implications of new technology at the National Economic Development Council meeting earlier this month showed that there are now few differences in acknowledging that problems do exist. The difficulty will lie in getting collaboration on the solutions.

Whatever management can do, there is unlikely to be much improvement without changes in the attitudes of trade unions and employees generally. However, at this stage, the CBI believes that it is more important to reach agreement on the issues involved than on the mechanics of actually doing the work.

Meanwhile, the CBI is urging employers to start with consultation and communication programmes "on a scale which has so far not been attempted even in the best companies." It says that this is essential "because people resist change they do not understand, or about which their views have not been sought and which may affect them adversely."

The discussion paper also says that management should ensure that employees are properly rewarded and motivated. "Without proper pay structures which are fair and seen to be fair, and without systematic communication, it will be impossible to motivate people to give of their best aid to involve them in the success of the enterprise."

"Too often," the paper points out, "pay bargaining is conducted by management as a defensive battle against trade union aggression, where the best hope is not to lose too disconcertingly and to live to fight again."

The underlying message is that if management were to put its own house in order it would have less difficulty in achieving cooperation from trade unions and employees on productivity issues.

A quiet revolution in debt control

When it became apparent to the management at Turner and Newall some five years ago that their existing computer generation was coming to the end of its useful life, it also became apparent that it would be sensible to replace the computer operation run by individual subsidiaries with a central facility to which all had access. While this move was being undertaken, the management reasoned, that it might be sensible to centralize some of the functions performed in the individual subsidiaries as well.

The result has been a quiet revolution in the way the group controls its debt and manages its foreign exchange, which has already saved a lot of money.

Of the four areas common to Turner and Newall subsidiaries, which the management originally considered for the development of common systems (sales ledger, fixed assets, nominal ledger and accounts payable), the two former were chosen for initial development; the first because it would yield obvious financial benefits, the second because of the concurrent development of group-wide approach to inflation accounting.

A project team, headed by the controller of group accounting, Simon Gravett, was set up to develop systems for both debts and currency control at the subsidiary level.

Products—with the most sophisticated financial systems.

That was in early 1977. Four of T and N's subsidiaries are now using both systems, and all of the United Kingdom subsidiaries are expected to be using them by August this year.

The sterling debt management system is so designed that information on all British debts, from all the group's companies,

will be carried on the central computer.

So an individual subsidiary using the system can summon on its visual display unit instant information on anything from total debts outstanding to the number of times an individual customer has paid late over the months since the system was introduced. Ledger balances are automatically reconciled daily and any validation errors can be put right immediately.

The net result is that accounts staff who previously spent their time trying to locate and correct errors in the balances are now free to chase up dilatory debtors. But the decision on whether or not to chase rests with the subsidiary.

It is not so with the foreign exchange debts. These are now centralized through an export subsidiary which has no commercial functions but carries the currency risks and rewards for manufacturing subsidiaries. This export company can deal in bigger amounts—an advantage in the foreign exchange markets—and employ expert staff to deal forward, on information again provided by the computer, what debt, in what currency, falls due when.

Turner and Newall reckons that where the debt management system has been introduced there has been a 5 to 7 per cent reduction in debtors (total group debt at the end of 1978 was £116m); and that there has been a saving of around £300,000 per annum on foreign exchange.

But the group emphasizes that what the systems provide are information: the will to do something about that information is a matter for management.

Adrienne Gleeson

CHECKLIST

Industry Bill (reducing powers of NEB, and Scottish and Welsh Electricity Boards) has completed its committee stage in the House of Commons.

Noble and Others v David Gold & Sons (Holdings) Ltd.: Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by employers claiming that three women who did light work in a warehouse did not suffer unfair dismissal and sex discrimination when they were dismissed through male colleagues who did heavier work was not.

Gas prices: forecast by Mr David Howell, Energy Secretary, that prices will rise by 10 per cent in real terms this year, and by a commensurate amount in the two following years.

International survey—accounting principles and reporting practices: prepared by account-

ants Price Waterhouse, and published by Butterworths, this survey covers, in tabular form, the accounting practices of countries throughout the world, from Argentina to Zimbabwe Rhodesia. The introductory notes are printed in five languages: English, French, German, Spanish and Italian. Price for the soft-back edition: £3.

International employee benefits: a three-day conference, organized by IEBS, is to be held at Grosvenor House, Park Lane, London, from January 30 to February 1. Topics covered include compensation design of international benefit programmes, voluntary benefits, and insurance. Cost: £225, including accommodation. Inquiries to Vincent Simone, Orchard House, 7 Little Ainslie Road, Farnham, Surrey (Tel 0252) 726416).

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trends in domestic video recorders

From Mr W. H. Fulton

Sir, I was very interested to read Derek Harris's report of the United Kingdom domestic video recorder market in your issue dated January 16. I believe that the article is a reasonable summary of the current situation, although there are one or two points I would like to clarify.

It is well known that in the embryonic video market, figures for format shares are difficult to establish—I would have to say, however, that our own calculations vary significantly from those quoted. We believe that the Beta Format has made considerable inroads back against VHS—especially during the key Christmas period, with both ourselves and other Beta manufacturers scoring significant successes.

More importantly, however, I would question the inference that the current market share position is likely to remain static in the months ahead.

Although 180,000 units seems a fairly large number, it is a fairly low penetration in low comparison with certain other countries. Sony will be launching in two months time, what we consider to be the defini-

itive domestic video recorder. This is a Beta Format machine, variants of which have already been launched in other countries with a startling effect on market share position.

Mr Harris rightly says that our agreement with Philips will not mean that we will drop Betamax. In fact, the company is totally committed to the Betamax format which, we are certain, will be the most widely accepted within a very short period of time. Indeed, his comments regarding rental companies are pertinent in his respect. Although he makes reference to certain companies adopting VHS, many more have been waiting for the advent of a fully developed machine. This we now believe we have, and our discussions with a number of rental companies have indicated that many more will now feel confident enough to enter the market.

Yours faithfully,
W. H. FULTON,
Managing Director,
Sony(UK) Limited,
Pyrene House,
Sunbury Cross,
Sunbury on Thames,
Middlesex.

Strike delays to Apex air travellers

From the Secretary of British Airways

Sir, In your issue of December 18, Dr J. M. Hammersley has asked for a "clear statement" from British Airways about the position of Apex ticket holders in the event of strikes.

The position is as follows. If we have to cancel a flight or are unable to provide a seat that has previously been confirmed we will do one of three things. We will carry the passenger on another of our services on which seats are available; we will "re-route" the passenger to his destination on the services of other airlines; or, if appropriate, we will refund the fare. If the passenger prefers, we will refund the fare.

Which of these three alternatives is to be followed in any particular case will be determined by the passenger's interests. It is unlikely that it would be in the interests of an Apex passenger to receive a refund of the fare but this would be a decision for him.

Yours faithfully,
BERNARD WOOD,
Secretary,
British Airways,
Head Office,
PO Box 10,
Heathrow Airport (London),
Hounslow, TW6 2JA,
January 18.

Economy—no easy cure

From Mr James Lipscombe

Sir, The case for old fashioned "laissez-faire" liberalism was put in the main article (January 12). The simplest of us clearly understands that if a works is overmanned, overpaid against its product performance, it will, in want of subsidy, close. The problem is that this sad state affects major British industry. If laissez-faire rules apply to steelworks, car works, shipyards, coal mines and railways we should have four million people unemployed tomorrow afternoon.

What the article fails to explain is what you do with four million unemployed. There are

no perfect solutions. One hundred and fifty years ago we abandoned protectionism because people were starving and forced the Corn Laws repeal. Fifty years ago we abandoned free trade because the people were working and saving again for the opposite reason. Hitler solved the problem with road building and a big stick. Short of that, there are no easy solutions and it behooves us to grasp that fact.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES LIPSCOMBE,
Thamesmead,
Barnet,
Herts.

33-year rise in price of cars

From Mr B. A. Light

Sir, The letter from Mr R. H. Brown (January 8) relates the price of a car to the cost of Ford cars.

The first Ford car I bought in 1947 cost £470 while a 5 cu. ft. domestic refrigerator was available at £91. Today a similar car costs £4,500 while you can still buy a 5 cu. ft. refrigerator for less than £91.

Yours faithfully,
B. A. LIGHT,
18 Arkle Avenue,
Betcham, Berks RG13 4UA.

Ownership of undiscovered minerals

From Mr F. C. Holland

Sir, I refer to the letter from Sir Kingsley Dunham and Sir Peter Kent (January 9) which discusses the difficulties posed by multiple surface ownership of undiscovered mineral resources.

The Country Landowners' Association, acting on behalf of the surface owners, has for the past two years been investigating these problems in association with the Confederation of British Industry, which has been coordinating discussions

on this subject.

There already exists legislation to enable the mining companies to explore for and win minerals, mainly the Mines (Working Facilities and Support) Act 1966, although the Act is seldom used.

The CLA have appointed a working party of which the CLA is a member, to examine the Act in detail and then recommend to the Government appropriate amendments to the Act and procedures under it.

Owners trust that these

problems, connected with a national need, can be successfully resolved without resort to an act of nationalisation which would be both extremely controversial and very hard fought.

Yours faithfully,
F. C. HOLLAND,
Land Use Consultant,
Country Landowners' Association,
Elms Court Cottage,
Rimington,
Sussex BN8 5QB,
January 17.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

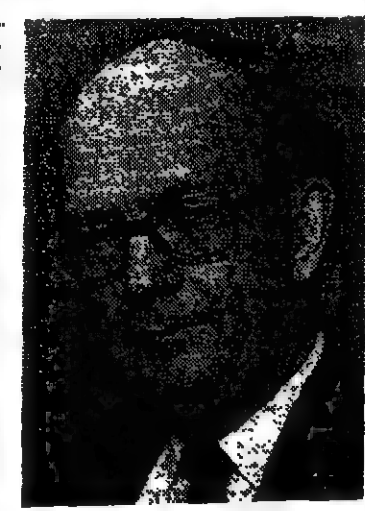
Inchcape and Rank hold the stage

Full-year figures from the Rank Organisation and an interim report from Inchcape are the highlights in an otherwise quiet week for companies.

Today sees the first of the economic indicators, which is likely to have some effect on market sentiment, when the Central Statistical Office reports on the industrial and commercial companies' appropriation account, net acquisition of financial assets and net borrowing requirements for the third quarter.

The cyclical indicators for the United Kingdom economy for December arrive on Tuesday, closely followed by the unemployment figures from the Department of Employment. New vehicle registrations for December from the Department of Transport arrive on Wednesday and on Thursday are the institutional investment figures for the third quarter from the CSE.

The interim figures from the international trading group Inchcape on Thursday are expected to show the group back on the road to recovery. This follows last year's disappointing performance which saw pre-tax profits for the year to March 31, fall from £62.3m to £41.1m, partly as a result of a currency-modify trading losses incurred by its Dutch subsidiary Harbort.



Mr Harry Smith, chairman of The Rank Organisation.

to around £26m or £27m. A small contribution can also be expected from its Leisure Caravan purchase.

TODAY—Interims: Cray Electronics, Gold Fields Property, Mercantile House Holdings, Palmerston Investment Trust, and Wintour. Finals: Alexanders Discount, Great Northern Investment Trust, Leeds Investment Trust and Meggit Holdings.

Conventional wisdom has it that Australia will be the mining bull market of the decade. Certainly, the indices over the past year or so have been little short of spectacular. The Sydney mines index rose from 2,555 on the last trading day of 1978 to 4,535 on the last trading day of 1979, before leaping up to 5,375 on Friday. In other words, we are already in a bull market.

By comparison, the non-mines index, which also includes Broken Hill Proprietary, Australia's largest public company and one which spans both the industrial and mining sectors, went up from 147.6 at the end of 1978, to 173.7 a year later, and 183.6 on Friday. So there can be no argument about what is giving the whole antipodean market its lift.

Mining

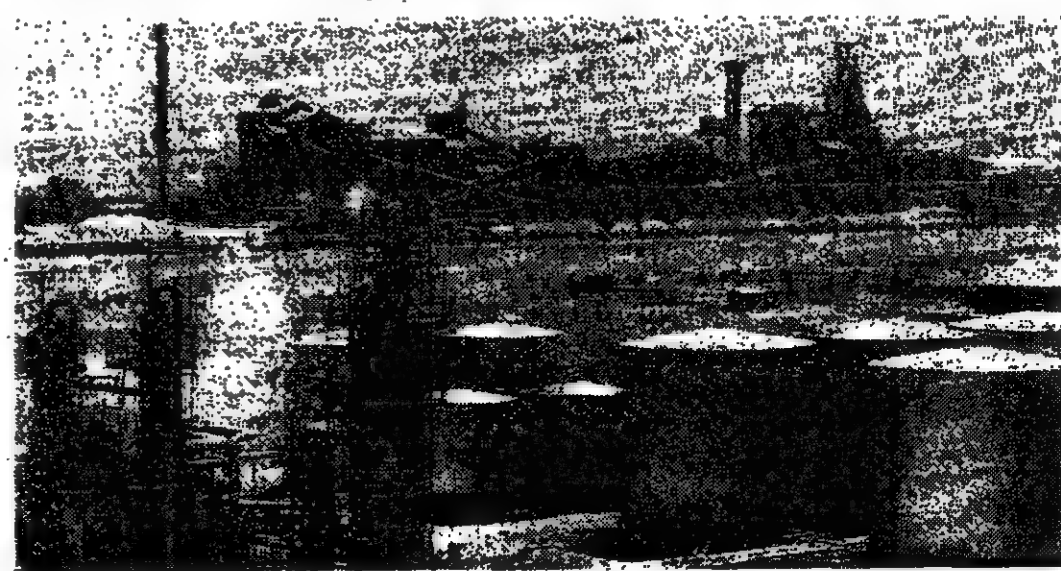
But are many mining stocks already too expensive, regardless of how far they may run in the future? In the eyes of more cautious Australia stockholders the similarities with the boom and bust of 1968-70 are too close for comfort. All at the same time, new material prices are going up: oil and gas, precious metals, coal. Uranium is finally breaking free of its political and environmental entanglements, while the medium-term prospects for base metals, not least iron ore, look good essentially because of the strength of the Japanese economy.

In some cases the property investors, many of whom from the United Kingdom, to buy "blue sky" has been as remarkable as it has been reckless. Perhaps the most extraordinary examples are South Pacific Petroleum and Central Pacific Minerals whose sole serious assets are oil leases known as The Koolies near Gladstone in Queensland.

Despite the minor reservation, which might give pause to some, that not a drop of oil has been produced from shale commercially anywhere in the world, including Gladstone, Queensland, and that so happy mining still seems to be several years off, punters have been piling in.

SPP has sailed up gloriously from a low of

Coal and uranium may offer long-term boom



Broken Hill's iron works: Mining expansion will be sustained here.

60 cents in 1978 to A\$17 at the end of last week, and CPM's career has been even more glittering, rocketing from A\$1.35 to A\$46 over the same period.

But, quite naturally, the brightest shooting stars have been in gold. Homestake Mining, a United States company, announced last week that it is to spend \$28.5m on the famous Pinckney mine, one of the many on the famous Kalgoorlie field in Western Australia which closed or fell on to hard times when gold was cheap.

Stocks such as Central Norseman, Consolidated Mines of Kalgoorlie, Australian Consolidated Minerals, Samanthia Exploration, and even the infamous Poseidon, now out of nickel and into gold, have been chased up.

Most of these mines are tiny. One way of putting Australian gold production in perspective is that at a total of about 680,000 ounces annually it is only a little more than the 19,703 kilograms produced last year by Bougainville. And of the Australian total, more than 200,000 ounces a year comes from a single mine,

the Teifer deposit in Western Australia.

Teifer is interesting because it is the newest major mine since the two reports of the big chip companies in the business, BHP and Newmont. In fact, most of the leading Australian mining companies have precious metal interests: Western Mining owns 50 per cent of Central Norseman, Peko-Wallendend produces gold as a by-product at Mount Morgan and Tannock Creek, and CBA, of course, is the majority holder in Bougainville.

Much the safest way to invest in the reviving Australian gold industry, therefore, is through one of these widely spread companies. But whatever your preference, whether for a safe return or a penny dreadful, one extra thought is worth bearing in mind. The Australian gold mines are in the luxurious position of operating entirely tax free, a quick which goes back to early years of the century when the cheap gold had been worked out and it was considered important for employment reasons and for supplying gold to reserves that the mines be kept going.

Some stockbrokers think this privilege could be removed. They point out that two reports of the Industry Assistance Commission have recommended that gold mines pay normal income tax, and with gold prices at current levels the case for exemption is thin. Watch the budget in August.

In the end, any investment in gold mines is sensitive to prices as the Australians obviously rest on assumptions about the bullion price. At the moment a lot of investors are acting as though the blue sky is the limit. Equally obviously, it is not, and Australian experience in this quarter should dictate caution.

But although the pessimists are part of the bull market may fade, and possibly quite soon, two less glamorous areas are just gathering momentum. Basing controls on uranium has made stocks such as Pancontinental, sitting on the world's biggest known uranium deposit at Jabiluka, attractive in a safely speculative way. And Japan's insatiable demands for good news for coal producers like Howard Smith. Leaving aside Ashton, a whole story in itself, the composition of the bull market could be very different from the popular image.

Michael Prest

This week

Mr Robert Harvard of brokers Hoare Covert expects the interim profits for the group to rise from last year's figure of £23m to £33m. Looking further forward to the end of March, Hoare anticipates that profits will rise to about £55m, leaving them just 12 per cent short of the group's all-time high.

The main reason for the group's anticipated recovery is that the position at Harbort appears to have stabilized. In addition to this several of the group's trading areas are showing strong growth, including the Far East and South East Asia. But the one question-mark to profits hangs over currency transactions which remain an imponderable.

Full-year figures from the Rank Organisation, also on Thursday, are pitched some where in the region of £137m where in the region of £130m compared with £122m year's pre-tax profits is thought.

The industrial side is thought to have suffered as a result of last year's transport and engineering strikes which are believed to have affected its precision contribution here should still see a small rise of about £1.5m

Business appointments

New director for board of British Petroleum

Mr Alton W. Whitehouse, Jr., has joined the board of British Petroleum as a non-executive director with effect from February 1, 1980. He is chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Standard Oil.

Mr J. M. Cannon has been appointed managing director of Croda International Inc. in New York, where he will continue to be based. Mr P. S. Hudson has also joined the board of Croda International.

Mr D. R. G. Davies and Mr J. S. Hannah have been appointed directors of Amara Holdings.

Mr A. S. Munn has been made a senior assistant director of Morgan Grenfell & Co. Mr W. Proby is now an assistant director.

Mr G. F. Gray has become a director of The British Electric Traction Company.

Mr D. L. Hanson has been promoted to the new position of regional director at Midland Rail in International.

Mr D. E. Anderson has joined the board of George H. Scholtes & Co as sales director.

Mr John C. Anderson has been appointed chief executive of the commercial division of Sterling Organics.

Mr John M. Allen and Mr R. B. Gwynne have been appointed to the main board of Fine Fare.

Mr Peter Lowe is the new technical director of Robert Morton DG. Mr Aubrey C. Wood joins the board as financial director.

Mr Richard Morris is now a director of Houlder & Stoughton Holdings.

Mr Stanley R. Harding has joined the board of Lyons Regis. Emma as chairman, succeeding Mr G. E. Lux, who will continue as a director of the company. Mr D. O. Syper has resigned as a director.

Mr Arthur Street is appointed a director of Fairst Marine (East Cotes).

Mr P. J. M. Patena has succeeded Mr Bryan Quiller as chairman of the National Television Rental Association.

Mr George McLaren and Mr John Laidlaw have joined the board of A. G. Bax.

The Hon Jonathan Davies has been elected a director of Nacsa Investments.

Mr G. B. Baker is now acting as managing director of Norfolk Capital Group. Mr David James, deputy chairman and managing director, is leaving the company.

Mr Roland Rene Hugenholz, Mr Jan Jacob Valkenburg and Mr Arie Valkenburg (alternate to Mr J. J. Valkenburg) have been appointed to the board of Marling Industries.

Mr A. J. W. S. Leonard and Mr A. K. Rae are now directors of North Sea Assets.

Mr John K. Shepherd is joining Blue Circle Industries on February 1 as a regional director to take over responsibilities for group activities in North America and southern Africa.

Jardine Matheson Insurance Brokers has appointed Mr P. J. Ford-Robinson a member of the group operating board.

Mr K. G. Davenport has been appointed by Sundalea Board as sales director and Mr E. W. Rose becomes contracts director.

The Oil Industries Club has appointed Mr Gordon Cochrane to succeed Mr C. M. Dalley as president of the club.

Mr Alexander Russell has been appointed a director of Andair Car Wash.

Shareholders decide on liquidation for Italconsult

A shareholders meeting in Rome has decided to put into liquidation Italconsult, the civil engineering design and consultancy group, after losses of 4.7m lire (£26m sterling).

Italconsult, which is particularly active in the Middle East and Africa, is controlled by Montedison with a 59.6 per cent shareholding.

The meeting, besides appointing Signor Francesco Nicoletti as liquidator, decided to write off the losses and to subscribe 300m lire (£167,000 sterling) of new capital.

Montedison hopes that this will form the basis for a rescue operation. A statement issued by Montedison said the liquidation was intended to be "without prejudice to the objective of Italconsult's restructuring and relaunching".

The chairman of Italconsult used to be Signor Aurelio Peccai, of Club of Rome fame.

He was however succeeded in November by Signor Pasquale Landolfi.

Massey-Ferguson

Massey-Ferguson of Toronto says it has agreed to sell its 37 per cent interest in Motor Iberica SA of Spain to Nissan Motor Company of Japan. Purchase price was not disclosed.

Massey said Motor Iberica manufactures farm machinery, diesel engines and components. After the sale of its interest, Motor Iberica will continue to manufacture under licence and distribute Massey-Ferguson tractors, combines and other farm machinery and Perkins engines. It said the technical assistance agreement between Massey and Iberica will also continue.

Iberica will remain a major customer for various Massey products which it does not make. In Spain, Massey said such sales totalled \$11m in 1979.

Michael Clark

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TELEVISION COMPANY
YOUNG SEC. £4,500
A chance for a bright young sec. to move into an interesting, challenging position as a TV camera operator. Salary £4,500 p.a. plus benefits. Full details on request. Ring 01-248 2484.

SECRETARY P.A. T.V. Co. W.1.
£5,000 p.a. plus travel. To major European cities. Beautiful Chelsea office. Tel: 332 4892

PERSONNEL SECRETARY
£25,000
Inv. City Co. require a short-hand Sec. 22 for Personnel Dept. Lots of admin and contact with people at all levels. Very interesting position. PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
01-585 7921

£5,000!
PA/Sec required for young entrepreneur. Small, newly refurbished offices in SW1. Please ring 834 0738

SECRETARIAL

TAXATION RESEARCH £5,500 + PERKS

Establish a career in this team handling confidential research. Mainly tax research with the latest journals, data, and methods and legal requirements. Audio experience is expected. The specialist in the field of taxation. Please contact Mr. or Mrs. Cookson at 01-581 0851 for further details.

PA/BOOKKEEPER To £6,000
Take on responsibility as you go general bookkeeping, admin, and typing. With this City company located near Marble Arch, London W.1. For more information call Mairia Wold on 028 8056.

BUSINESS TRAVEL CONSULTANT £4,400
Join this go-ahead City travel consultant. With your IATA training, knowledge and experience, you will be liaising with clients, compiling itineraries and booking seats. Call 01-439 3000 for further information.

DESIGN YOUR FUTURE £6,000
Thrive on responsibility. Your talents will be much in demand as you run this office. Organize administration and greet clients. Good salary, friendly office. Varied involvement, newly organized team with P.A. back up. Varied involvement, newly organized team with P.A. back up. Varied involvement, newly organized team with P.A. back up. Call 01-439 3000 for further information.

01-828-8055
CHURCHILL PERSONNEL
PERSONNEL CONSULTANTS
Aldford House, 15 Wilton Road, London SW1V 1LT

TEMP CONTROLLER
£4,500 + HIGH BONUS
Expanding highly successful recruitment group offers exciting varied individual full scope for career development. Control secretarial bookings, maintain service levels, generate new business, make decisions, enjoy being acknowledged by the market leaders. W.14. A business background and enthusiasm there is no limit to your success. The Churchill Personnel Consultants.

BI-LINGUAL ENG/SPAN. SECRETARY
£4,000 p.a. plus bonus
Busy M.D. of South American commodity company in W1 seeks Sec. with accurate a.h. in English, Spanish an advantage, good typing essential, to form part of hard working team. Good promotion prospects. 80p L.V. per day. Season ticket loan scheme.

TRAVEL YOUNG SEC
£4,800
Top Company operating worldwide travel service, seeks ambitious young woman to join the team. Excellent salary and benefits. Please contact Mrs. G. Evans, Personnel Services (C1) Ltd., 125 Park Lane, London W.1. Tel: 01-439 3000 for appointment.

SEC/PA MANAGING DIRECTOR
As Personal Assistant to this director, you will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company. Salary £4,800 p.a. plus benefits. Full details on request. Ring 01-248 2484.

OVERSEAS RECRUITMENT
Join this West End company of recruitment consultants and become an important part of a small team. Enjoy lots of variety—organizing recruitment, managing secretaries, and more. Salary £4,800 p.a. plus benefits. Full details on request. Ring 01-248 2484.

FREE TRAVEL ABROAD PA/SEC
£4,000-£4,500
Here's your chance to really get involved, assisting a young man in his travels. He is a successful businessman and has a passion for travel. Salary £4,000-£4,500 p.a. plus benefits. Full details on request. Ring 01-248 2484.

ADMIN £4,500
Join this international company and assist in the day-to-day running of the company. Salary £4,500 p.a. plus benefits. Full details on request. Ring 01-248 2484.

VARIETY IS YOUR KEY
Wonderful sec. job with lots of variety in international office. Salary £4,500 p.a. plus benefits. Full details on request. Ring 01-248 2484.

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SECRETARIAL

PERSONNEL ASSISTANT £4,500+

You are currently working as a Secretary and want to move into a new career. You are used to dealing with people and would like to work in a new environment. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company. Salary £4,500 p.a. plus benefits. Full details on request. Ring 01-248 2484.

PATHFINDERS
The Specialists in Permanent and Temporary Secretarial and General Office Jobs in MUSIC T.V. FILMS ADVERTISING & DESIGN
"MURPHY WILL LOOK AFTER YOU"
THE WAY WE DO IT!
01-439 3000

U.S. FINANCIAL MAGAZINE
Dynamic Secretary required. French, German, Italian or Spanish. Good typing essential. Salary £4,500 p.a. plus benefits. Full details on request. Ring 01-248 2484.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
With excellent skills and English shorthand to assist General Manager of international company. Salary £4,500 p.a. plus benefits. Full details on request. Ring 01-248 2484.

PA/SEC TO CHAIRMAN
£7,000+
This new established company is looking for a capable, energetic, professional or commercial background, some of our clients could be interested in your curriculum vitae. Please arrange an appointment to talk to Angela and Isabel.

OVERSEAS RECRUITMENT
Join this West End company of recruitment consultants and become an important part of a small team. Enjoy lots of variety—organizing recruitment, managing secretaries, and more. Salary £4,800 p.a. plus benefits. Full details on request. Ring 01-248 2484.

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SECRETARIAL

The Council for INTERNATIONAL CONTACT SECRETARIES

The Council, a non profit making educational travel organisation has secretarial vacancies in the Teaching Division. Secretarial, admin, administrative ability and flexibility required. Salary Scale: £3,800-£4,400 plus L.Vs. Office hours are 09.30 to 17.00 and all staff are eligible for 28 days leave each year. For details and application form write or telephone to: The Council for INTERNATIONAL CONTACT, 8 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1, Tel: 01-235 7554

First Class College Leaver £5,000
As junior secretary in the established office of a top world famous company, you would be involved in a wide variety of work at top level. A good education, O and A level, and accurate shorthand and typing are essential. 50 typing are needed for this job moving and exceptional job.

Bernadette of Bond St.
Recruitment Consultants
No. 55, (just past the fountain)
01-439 3000

CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARY/P.A.
Required to work with 2 senior executives in a top world famous company. The job involves a wide variety of work at top level. A good education, O and A level, and accurate shorthand and typing are essential. 50 typing are needed for this job moving and exceptional job.

AMERICAN BANK VICE-PRESIDENT'S PA/SEC
£5,000
Luxury unparalled. This established American Bank Group spanning the World with activity has the very latest in equipment. An experienced PA/Sec for the newly arrived Vice-President is now the main priority. This ideal position is really to be a first class organizer and to feel at home with the Vice-President. The job involves a wide variety of work at top level. A good education, O and A level, and accurate shorthand and typing are essential. 50 typing are needed for this job moving and exceptional job.

PUBLISHING £4,500
A talent to organize plus good secretarial skills are urgently required by the special Project Division of this famous magazine. A genuine interest in publishing and a good command of English are essential. Salary £4,500 p.a. plus benefits. Full details on request. Ring 01-248 2484.

TRAVEL YOUNG SEC
£4,800
Top Company operating worldwide travel service, seeks ambitious young woman to join the team. Excellent salary and benefits. Please contact Mrs. G. Evans, Personnel Services (C1) Ltd., 125 Park Lane, London W.1. Tel: 01-439 3000 for appointment.

SEC/PA MANAGING DIRECTOR
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£5,000!
PA/Sec required for young entrepreneur. Small, newly refurbished offices in SW1. Please ring 834 0738

SECRETARIAL

SPANISH WEEK

This week we are calling Spanish week at international secretaries and if you are a secretary with English shorthand and a good working knowledge of Spanish we would be pleased to hear from you. We currently have eight jobs with a variety of different types of companies and offering salaries in the range £3,500-£5,300. For further information call Caroline Raby International Secretaries 481 7108 P.S. Italian week starts next Monday, 28th January.

ADMIN ASSISTANT
20s in Advertising, with hands on experience in a top world famous company. The job involves a wide variety of work at top level. A good education, O and A level, and accurate shorthand and typing are essential. 50 typing are needed for this job moving and exceptional job.

PRESTIGE PARTNERS
34 Baker Street, W.1.
01-487 5797
A career opportunity in rapidly expanding organization for a SECRETARY/RECEPTIONIST

SECRETARY 22+
£5,000 + BENEFITS
An international company needs a capable, energetic, professional or commercial background, some of our clients could be interested in your curriculum vitae. Please arrange an appointment to talk to Angela and Isabel.

TRAVEL COMPANY
Accounts clerk/typist needed for small travel agency. Responsible for typing and processing holiday brochures. It is essential for him/her to be able to arrange travel and deals and work under pressure. Have a sense of humor. Salary and conditions negotiable. Please ring Caroline Blackmore 01-408 1358

NON SECRETARIAL CAREER
With this international market leading equal opportunities a reality. Progress to senior management, or run your own business within 6 months. If you are bright, well spoken and well organized, we can help you achieve your dreams. Please contact Mrs. G. Evans, Personnel Services (C1) Ltd., 125 Park Lane, London W.1. Tel: 01-439 3000 for appointment.

TO THE MANOR BORN
£4,000
Asst. the department head as his/her and sales and marketing. The job involves a wide variety of work at top level. A good education, O and A level, and accurate shorthand and typing are essential. 50 typing are needed for this job moving and exceptional job.

HOST/HOSTESS P.A.
£5,000
Meeting top executives and taking care of VIPs will be just one of the many responsibilities of this international company. The job involves a wide variety of work at top level. A good education, O and A level, and accurate shorthand and typing are essential. 50 typing are needed for this job moving and exceptional job.

CAN YOU TRANSLATE FRENCH OR GERMAN?
£5,000+
Then this basic job of news gathering and reporting will be a challenge for you. You will be responsible for the day-to-day running of the company. Salary £5,000 p.a. plus benefits. Full details on request. Ring 01-248 2484.

PUBLISHING
The Managing Director of an expanding publishing house is looking for a graduate secretary with secretarial skills. Interesting and varied work. Please write to Brian Southam, The Athlete Press, 50-51 Great Russell Street, London WC1.

MATURE SECRETARY
£4,700
Small, charity association are looking for a mature secretary with competent shorthand and good general knowledge. Salary £4,700 p.a. plus benefits. Full details on request. Ring 01-248 2484.

HOUSEWORK - INTERNATIONAL
The Housework International company is looking for a capable, energetic, professional or commercial background, some of our clients could be interested in your curriculum vitae. Please arrange an appointment to talk to Angela and Isabel.

SHORTHAND TRAINING
A well known British company is looking for a capable, energetic, professional or commercial background, some of our clients could be interested in your curriculum vitae. Please arrange an appointment to talk to Angela and Isabel.

LEGAL EAGLES?
£4,500
Do reports of parliament interest you, and different aspects of law? Join our team. The job involves a wide variety of work at top level. A good education, O and A level, and accurate shorthand and typing are essential. 50 typing are needed for this job moving and exceptional job.

SECRETARY 22+
£5,000 + BONUS
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LIVERPOOL ST., £5,500
Experienced Secretary/P.A. with good shorthand and typing. Salary £5,500 p.a. plus benefits. Full details on request. Ring 01-248 2484.

CHALLENGERS - CHALLENGERS
The finest recruitment for placing people in the top 100 jobs in the world. Salary £5,500 p.a. plus benefits. Full details on request. Ring 01-248 2484.

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING STARTS HERE

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- PUBLIC AND EDUCATIONAL
- APPOINTMENTS
- PUBLIC NOTICES
- RENTALS
- SECRETARIAL
- AND NON-SECRETARIAL
- APPOINTMENTS
- SERVICES
- SITUATIONS WANTED
- THE TIMES READER
- SERVICES DIRECTORY
- WANTED

For a complete list of classified advertising rates and conditions, please apply to the Times Classified Advertising Department, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

Private Advertisers Only
01-637 3311

Property Estate Agents
01-278 9161

Personal Trade
01-278 9351

Manchester Office
061-434 1234

Queries in connection with advertisements that have appeared, other than cancellations or alterations, should be sent to the Times Classified Advertising Department, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

Please check your ad.
We make every effort to avoid errors in advertisements. Each one is carefully checked and proofread. When thousands of advertisements are handled each day, mistakes do occur and we ask you to check your ad and, if you spot an error, report it to the Classified Advertising Department immediately by telephone 01-637 3311 (Ext. 780). We regret that we cannot be responsible for more than one day's incorrect insertion if you do not.

The Deadline for all copy is 24 hours.
Alterations to copy is 3.00 pm prior to the day of publication. For Monday's issue the deadline is 12 noon Saturday. On all cancellations a Stop Number will be issued to the advertiser. On any subsequent queries regarding the cancellation, this Stop Number must be quoted.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell in unity! (Psalm 133:1)

Advertisements in this section are accepted on the basis of cash payment in advance. The Times Classified Advertising Department, 1, Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3DF.

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BIRTHS

WILES—On 19th January, 1980, in London, to Jenny and Peter, a daughter, Joanna Jenny.

BIRTHDAYS
SKRATINGS—Congratulations Dave on your 29th birthday. Happy birthday, love—Joan. HARRIS—Happy birthday, love—Mrs. Harris.

DEATHS
ADAMS—On 17th January, 1980, at his home, 12, Maitland Road, London, John Adams, aged 78, beloved husband of Mary Adams, died peacefully.

DEATHS
BAILEY—On 17th January, 1980, at his home, 12, Maitland Road, London, John Bailey, aged 78, beloved husband of Mary Bailey, died peacefully.

DEATHS
BEATON—On 17th January, 1980, at his home, 12, Maitland Road, London, John Beaton, aged 78, beloved husband of Mary Beaton, died peacefully.

DEATHS
COLEMAN—On 17th January, 1980, at his home, 12, Maitland Road, London, John Coleman, aged 78, beloved husband of Mary Coleman, died peacefully.

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PERSONAL COLUMNS

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE TIMES

The Times deeply regrets the inconvenience and reduction in service to its classified advertisers. This is caused by severe staff shortages in the Telephone Sales Department. Whilst everything possible is being done to improve the situation, we would ask advertisers to continue sending advertisements and notices in writing to The Times, Room N315, PO Box 7, New Printing House Square, Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. We require any further help, please ring 01-637 3311; we apologise should there be a delay in getting through.

SEASONAL SALES

WALK CHEERFULLY OVER THIS WORLD

In shoes made to measure by JAMES TAYLOR & SON

Sale of Stock hand made shoes

James Taylor & Son

Residence: 10, Maitland Road, London, W.C.1X 8EZ

Monday, 9 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.

4 Pudding Lane, London, E.C.4

High St. W.C.1X 8EZ

W.C.1X 8EZ

W.C.1X 8EZ

W.C.1X 8EZ

W.C.1X 8EZ

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HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

JANUARY BARGAINS

Departure 26th Jan. for 2 wks.

Thurs-Chair party Les Vol-

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Argentine-Chair 1 wks 2 wks

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